Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO. 96
US $1.99
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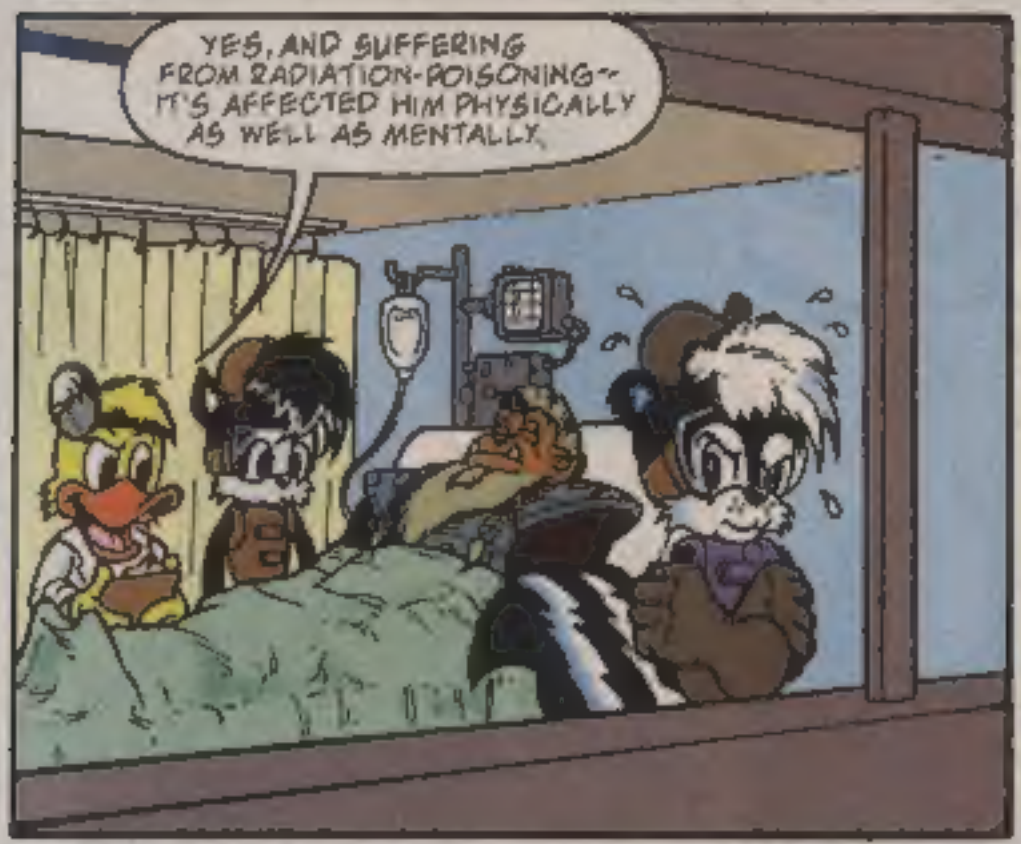
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
SEGA
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DIRECT EDITION
Anniversary
10TH
SONIC

After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!



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AWWW, C'MON MOM'N DAD, YOU KNOW HOW UNCOMFORTABLE I GET WHEN YOU STARE AT ME WHILE I EAT.

WE'RE SORRY, SON...
IT'S JUST THAT EVER SINCE WE WERE ROBOTICIZED, WE DON'T NEED TO EAT.

THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE. I FEEL GUIL~

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
WHO COULD THAT BE?

GEOFFREY ST. JOHN?!
G'DAY TO YOU, SIR...

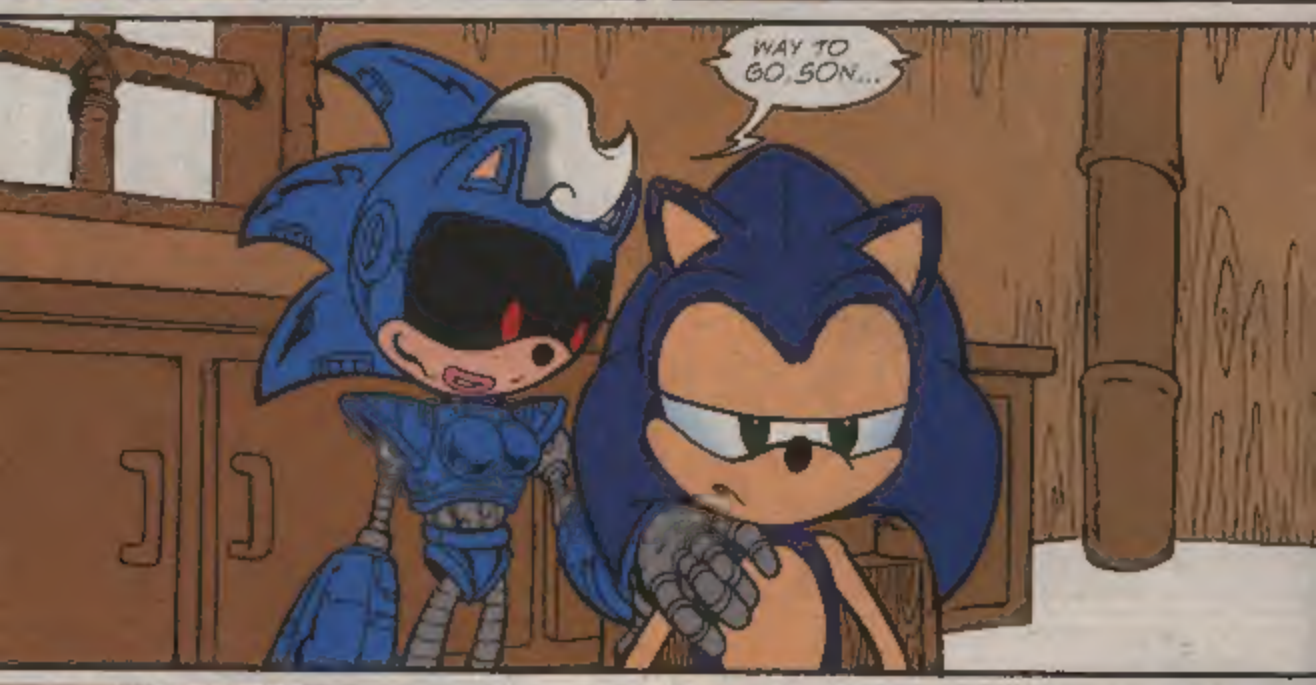
ALL RIGHT, BOY...

...HOW DID HE GET THERE?

SLLLLIDDDDE

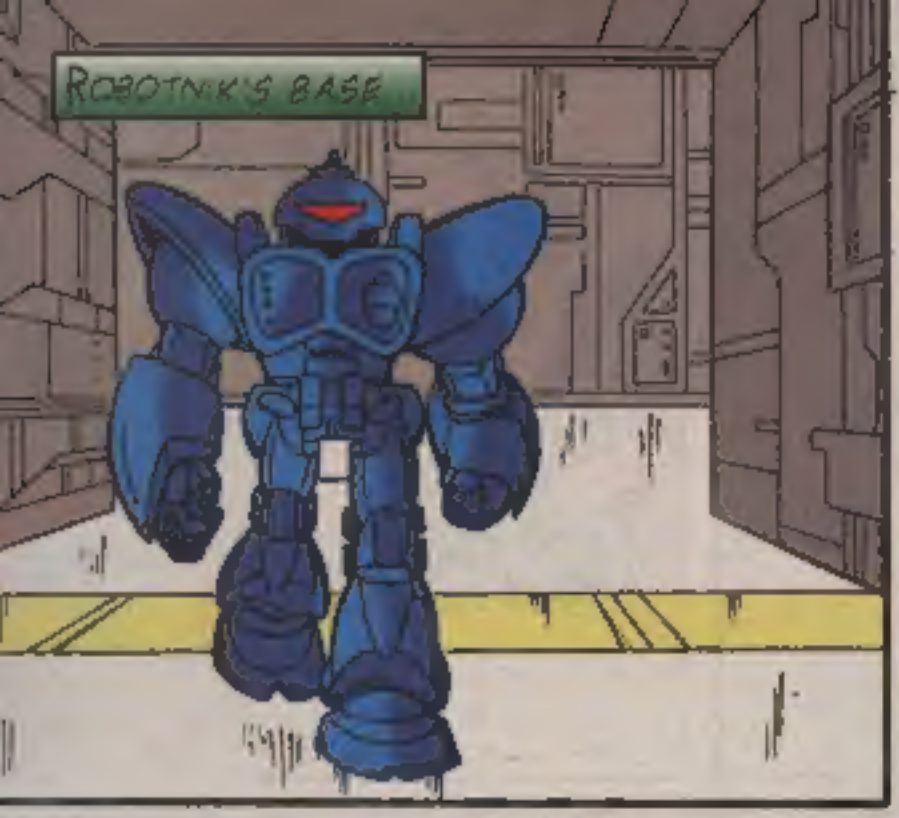
UHHH... HOW DID WHO GET WHERE?

BLAST.


WAY TO GO, SON...

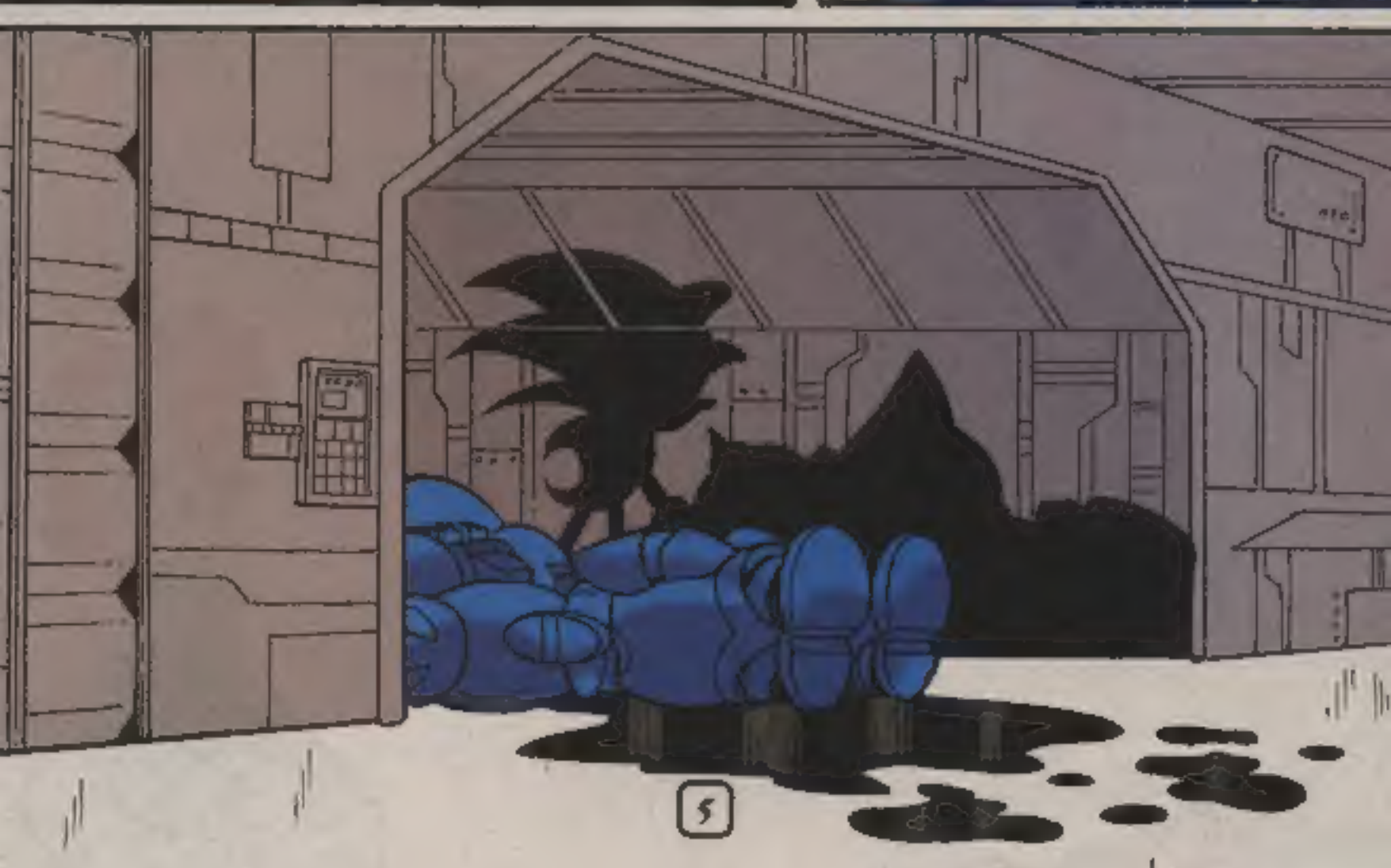
HAS PRINCESS SALLY CONTACTED YOU LATELY? GUESS NOT. DON'T BE LATE TO SCHOOL.

I SURE HATE THAT GUY.


ROBOTNIK'S BASE

ALERT
DANGER!

SH-ZAKT



WE'RE STILL TRYING TO ASCERTAIN HOW KODOS GOT HERE, SIR!
KEEP ME INFORMED OF YOUR PROGRESS.

WE SHOULD TRY TO FIND OTHER POSSIBLE LEADS.

I CAN'T WAIT TO VISIT SONIC AND THE GANG!
I'LL JOIN YOU LATER, HERSHEY...

I'LL PROVIDE YOU AN ESCORT, PRINCESS -- KODOS' ALLIES MIGHT BE LURKING ABOUT.

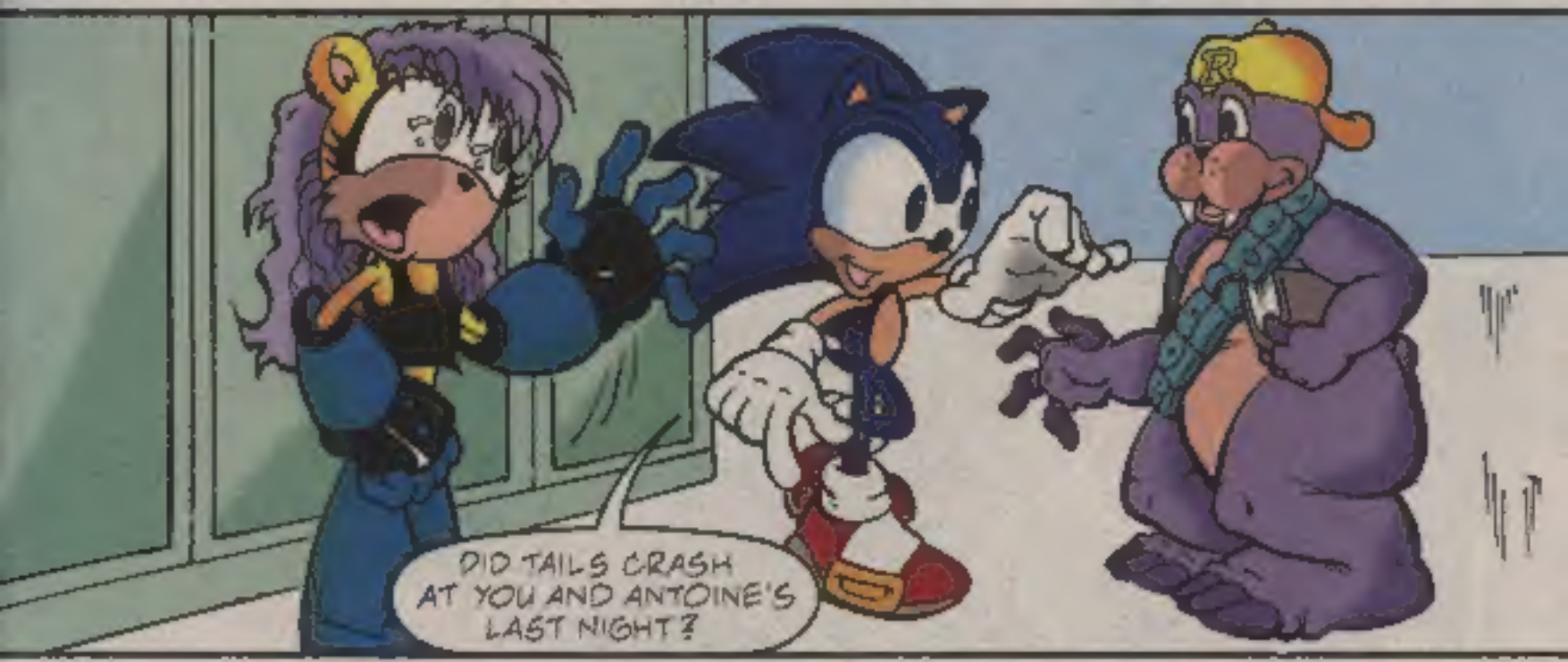
UHH... HOW ABOUT WHEN IT'S NOT SO DANGEROUS, THEN.

SORRY, GEOFFREY... BUT THIS IS A TRIP I HAVE TO MAKE ALONE. BUT HOW?

DIFFERENT RINGS POSSESS DIFFERENT PROPERTIES...
Will you tutor me? ☐ yes ☐ no
Will you tutor me? ☐ yes ☐ no
At what?!
SPEED?! YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU CONTROL YOUR SPEED?
WELL, YEAH...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO EVERYTHING REALLY FAST?

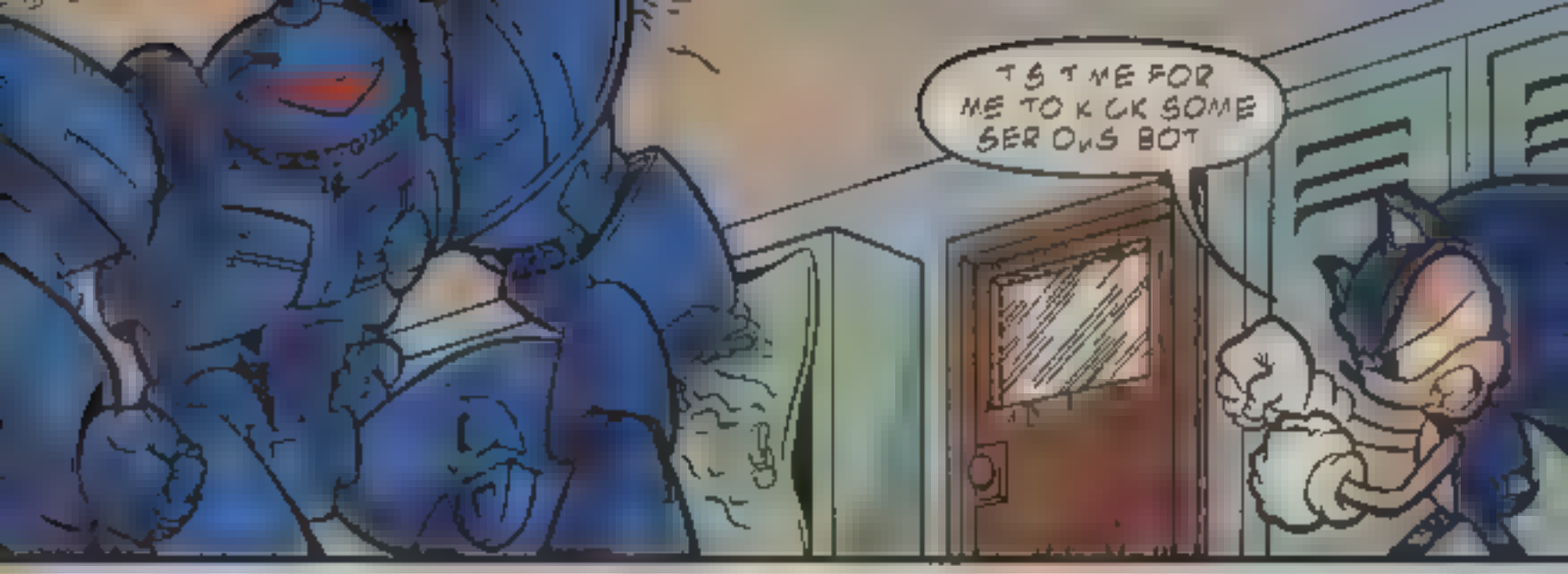
I CAN'T CONTROL IT LIKE--
SONIC!
S'UP ROTOR?

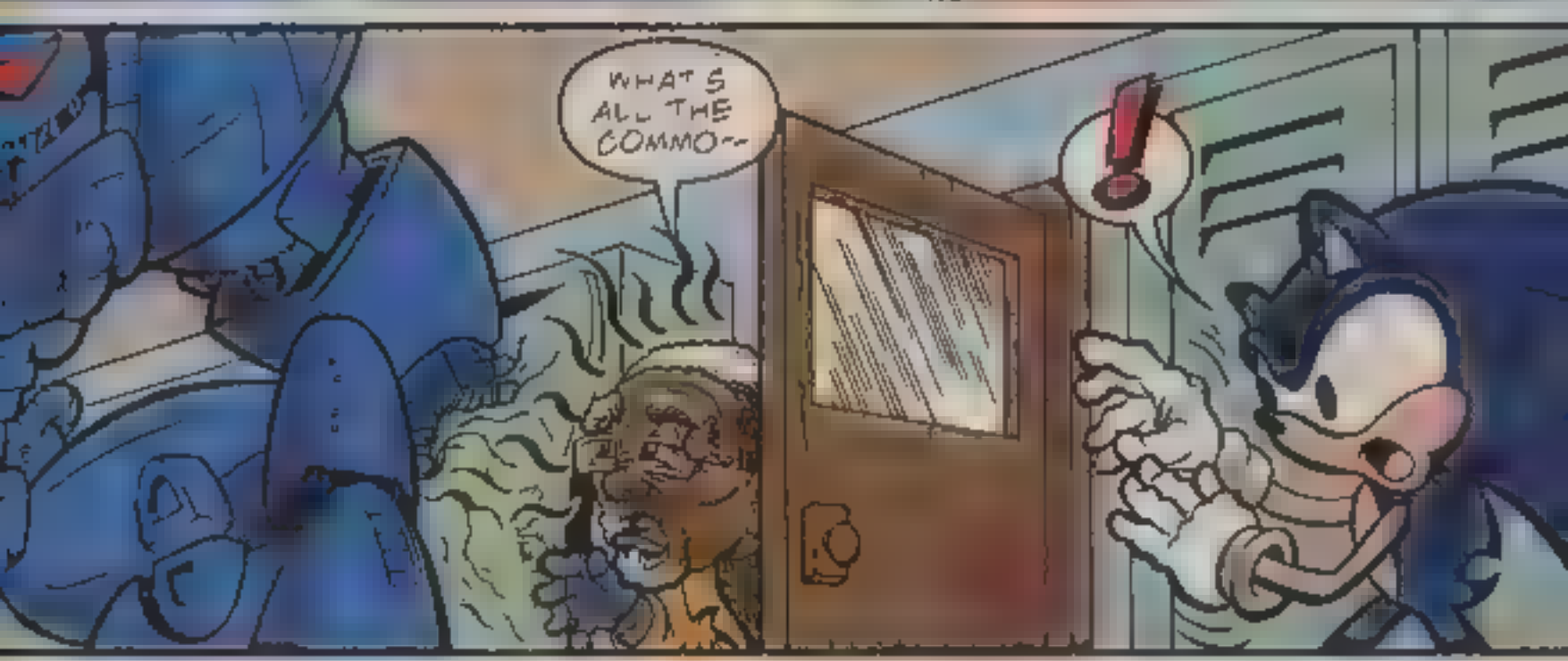

DID TAILS CRASH AT YOU AND ANTOINE'S LAST NIGHT?

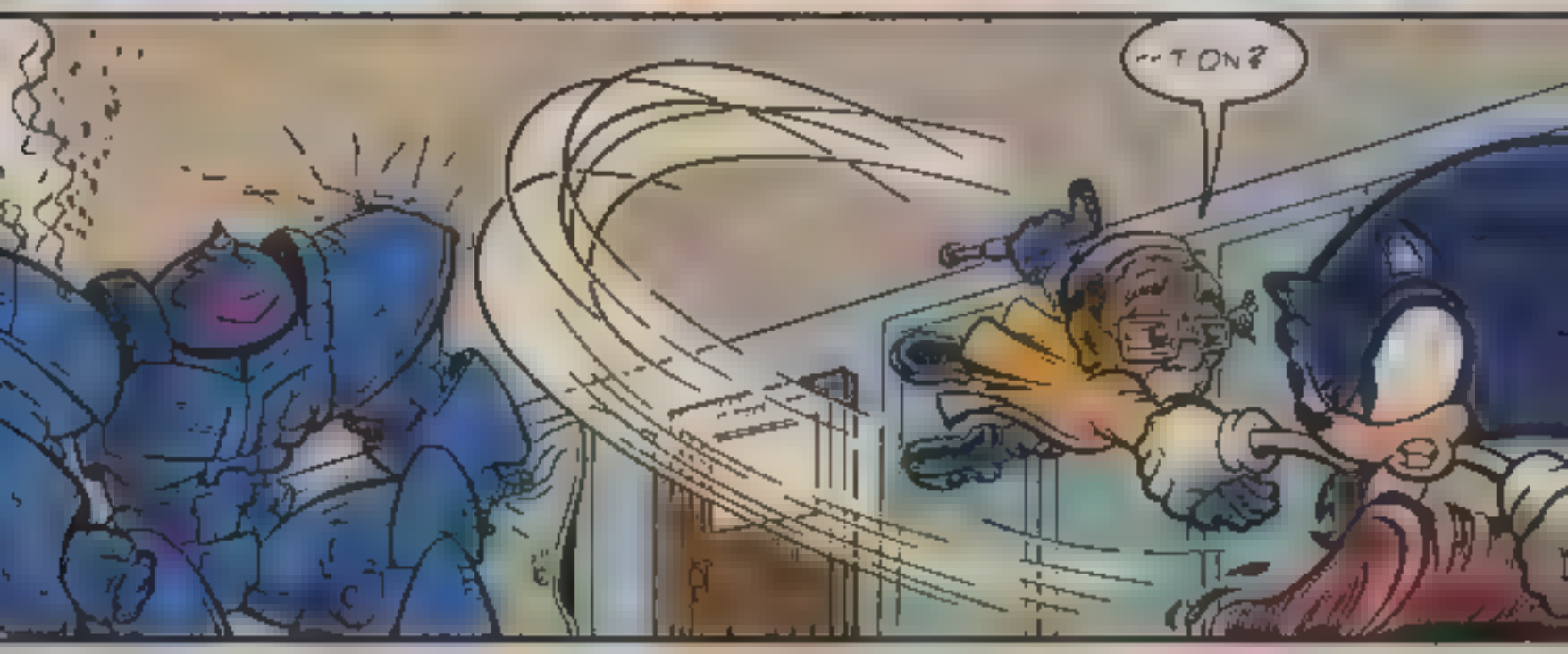
NOPE. NEITHER DID ANTOINE.

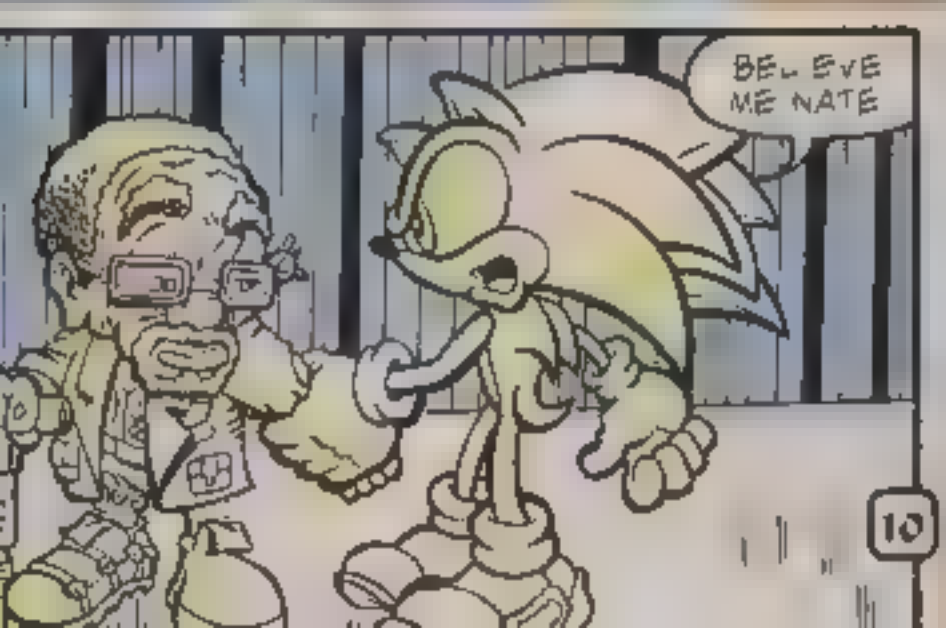
THIS IS GETTING ME WORRIED~I HAVEN'T SEEN THE L'IL GUY SINCE YESTERDAY.

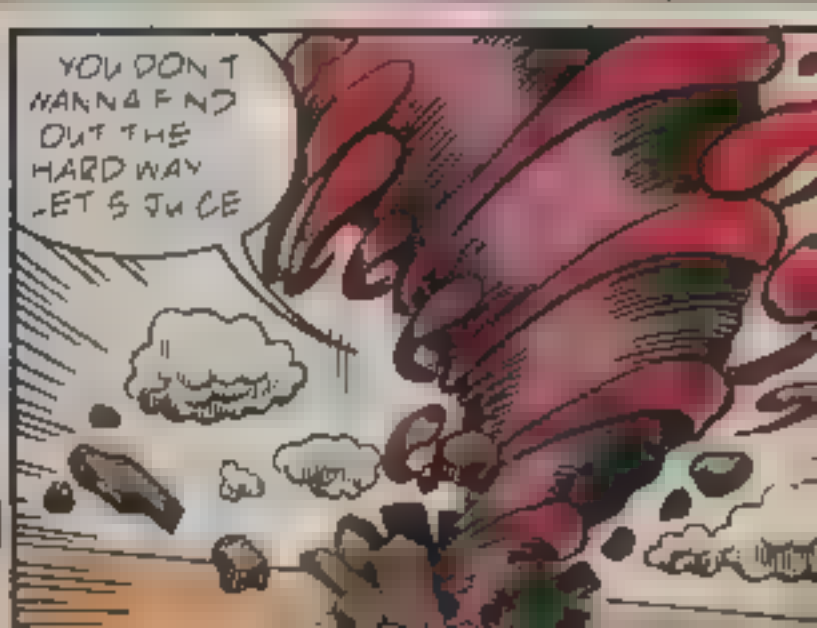
KRASH
WHAT WAS THAT?
I DUNNO...
...BUT WHATEVER IT WAS...
...IT CAN'T BE GOOD!
LIKE I WAS SAYIN'... MINA... ROTOR... WILL YOU EXCUSE ME?

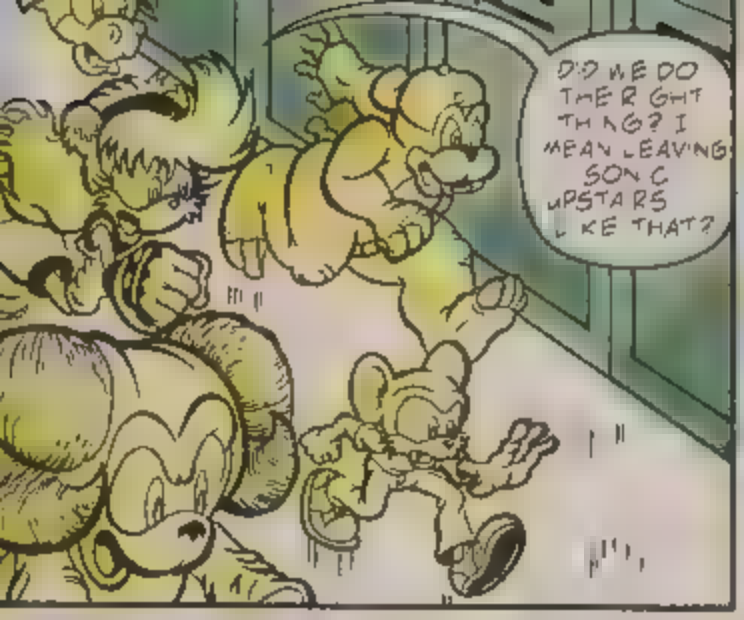

T S T ME FOR ME TO K CK SOME SER OUS BOT

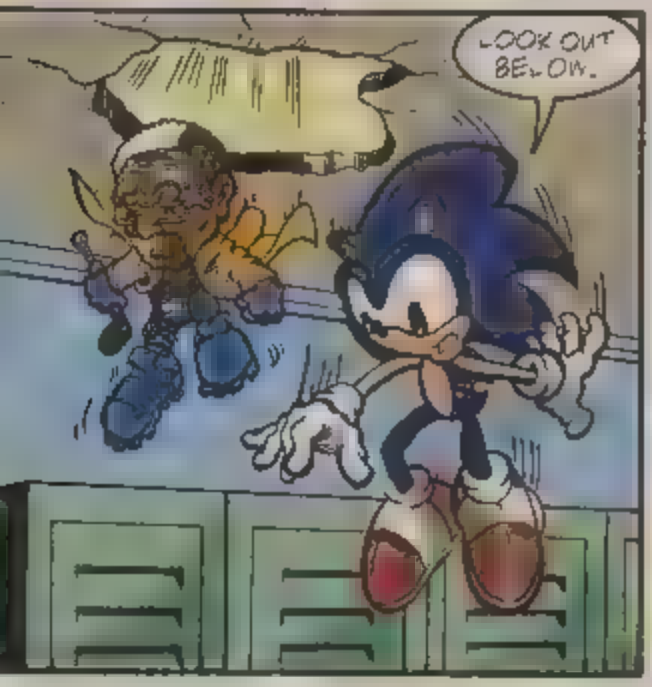

WHAT S ALL THE COMMO--
!

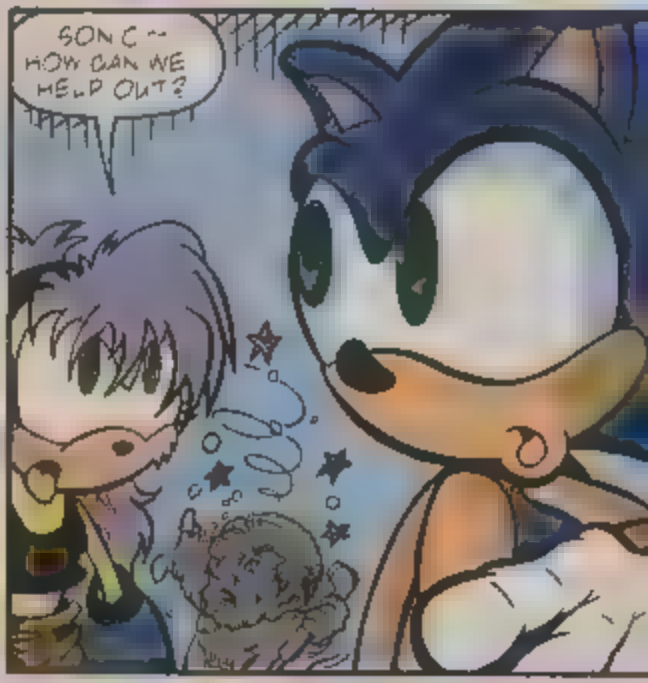

--T ON?

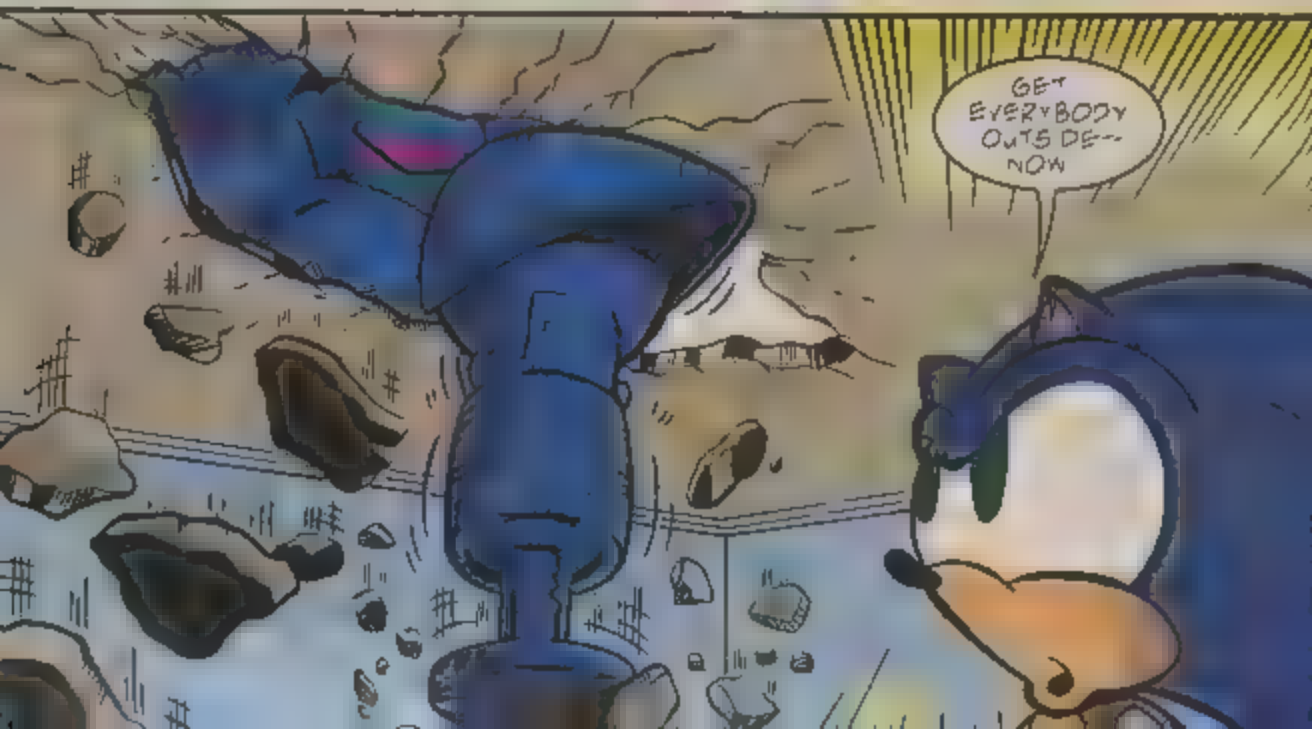

BEL EVE ME NATE

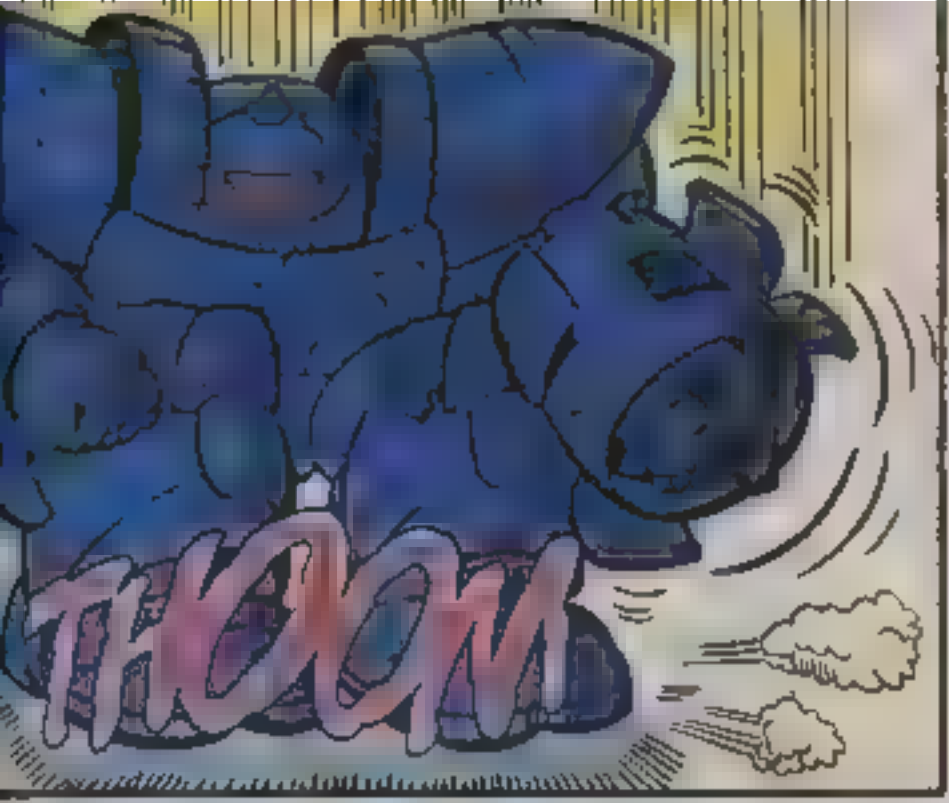

YOU DON T WANNA F ND OUT THE HARD WAY -ET S JU CE

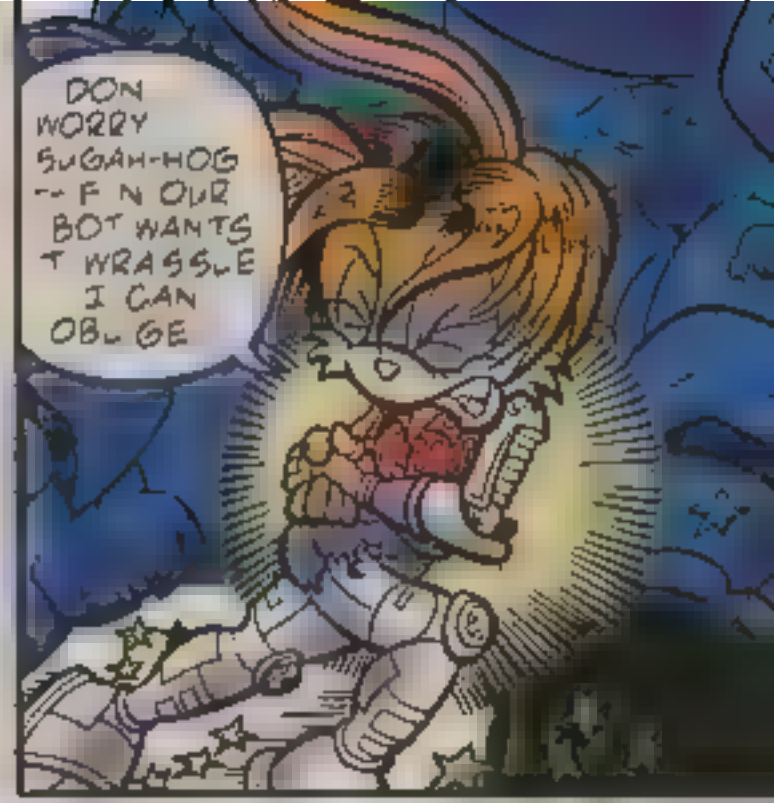

DID WE DO THE R GHT TH NG? I MEAN LEAVING SON C UPSTA RS L KE THAT?

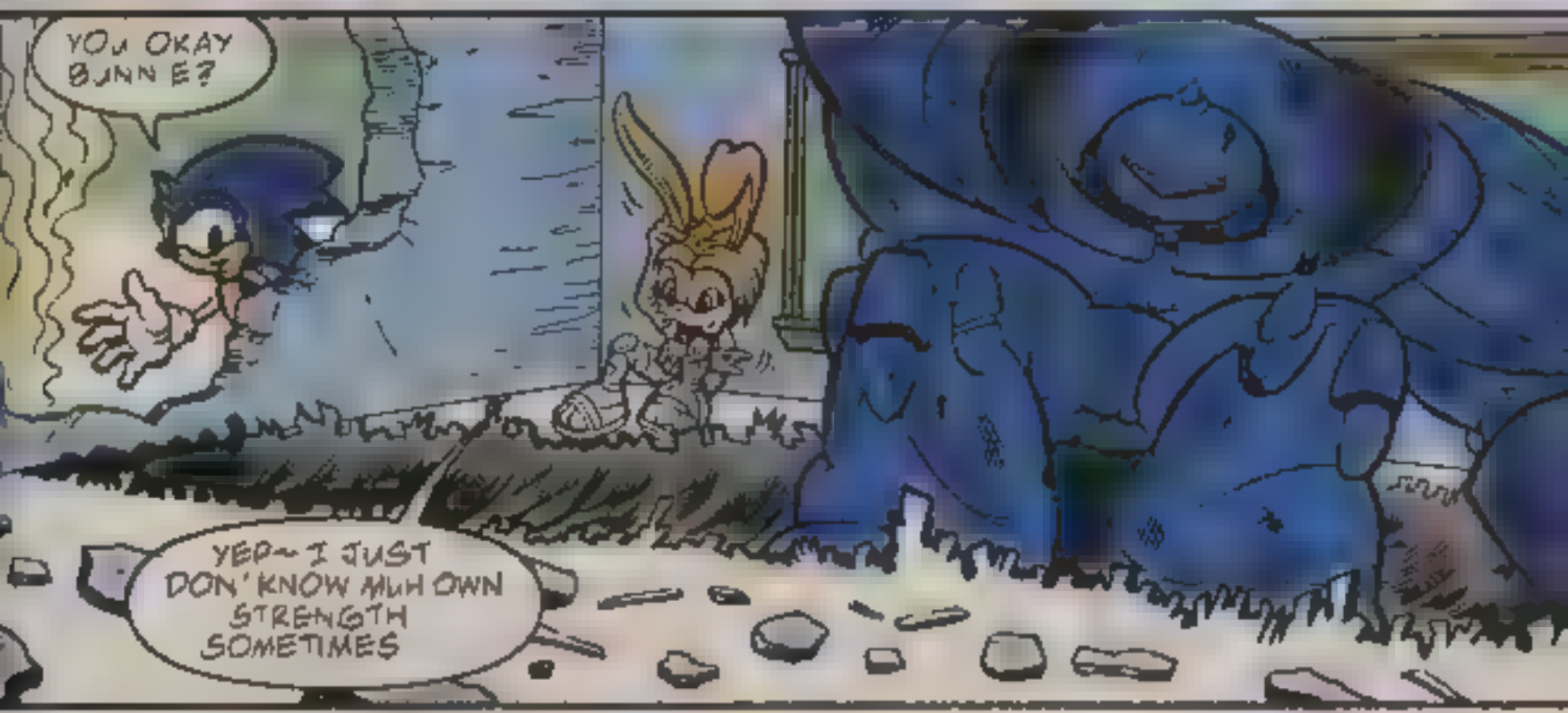

LOOK OUT BELOW.


SON C -- HOW CAN WE HELP OUT?

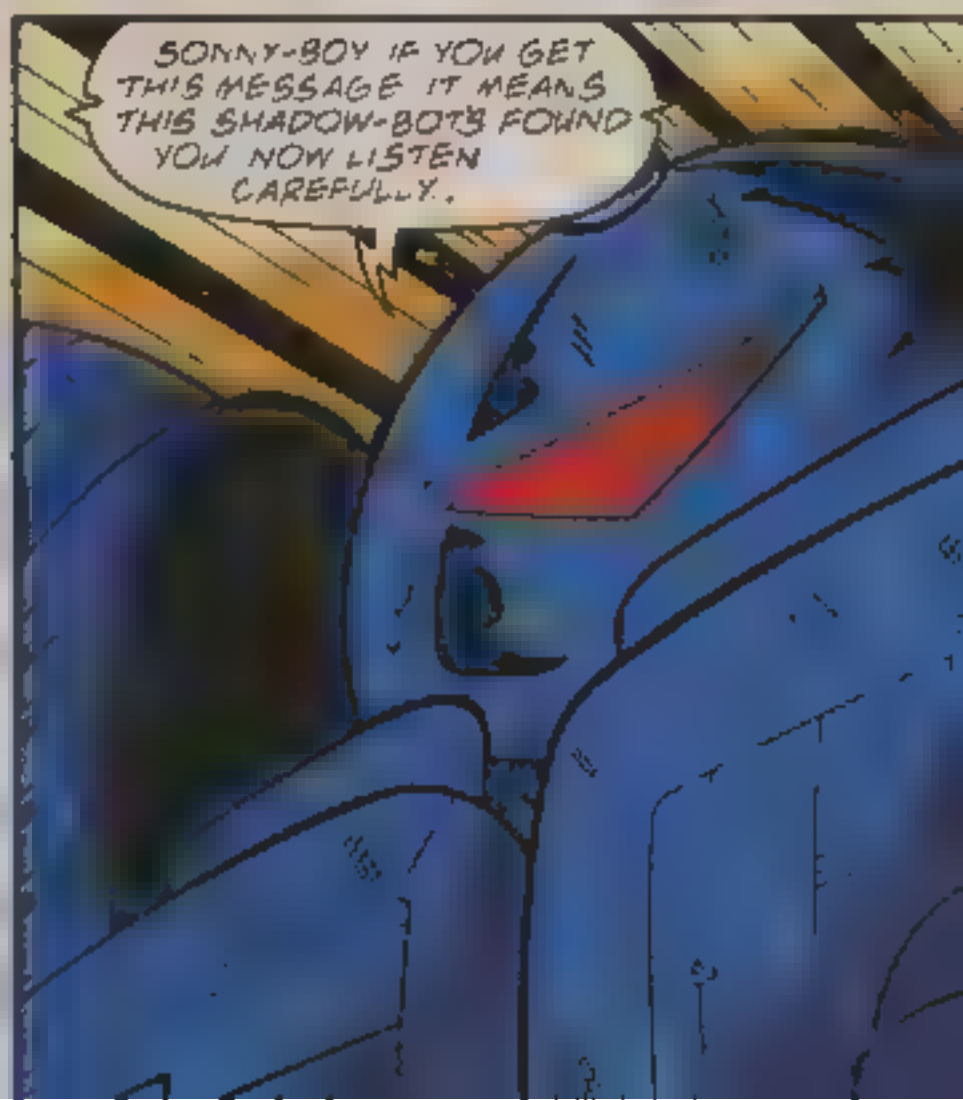

GET EVERYBODY OUTS DE-- NOW

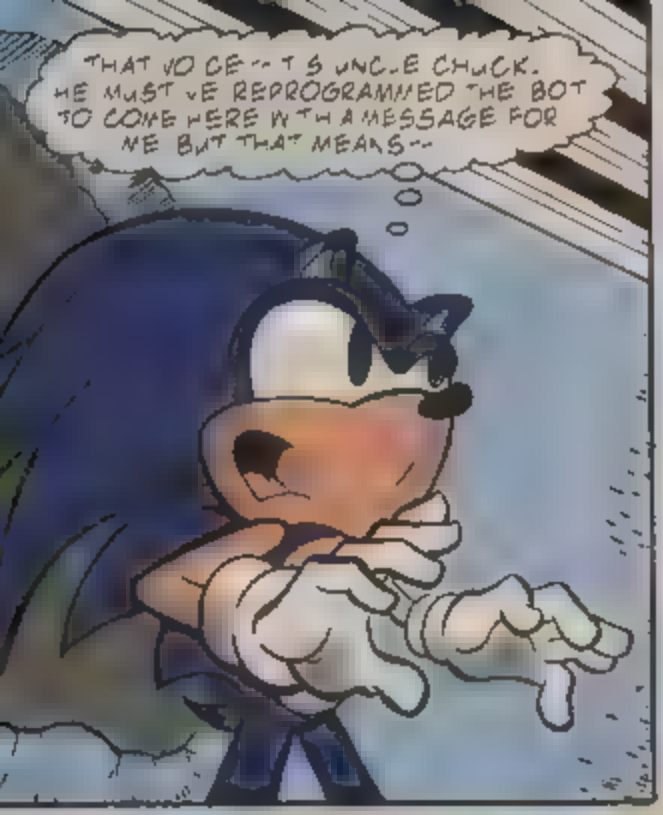

THOOM

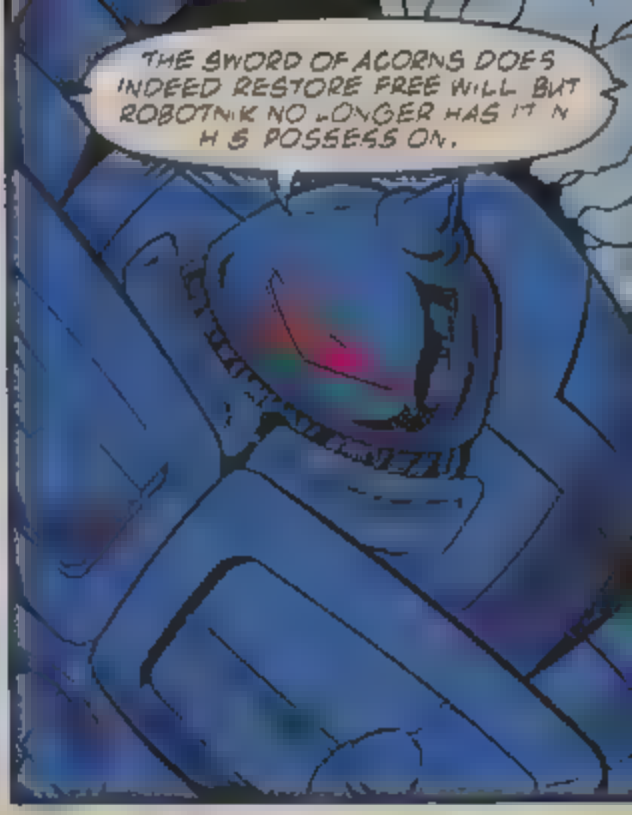

DON WORRY SUGAH-HOG -- F N OUR BOT WANTS T WRASSLE I CAN OBLIGE

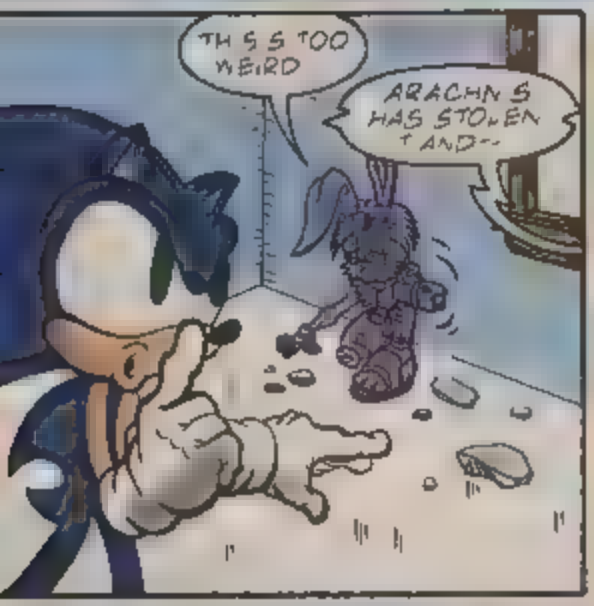

YOU OKAY BUNNIE?
YEP~ I JUST DON' KNOW MUH OWN STRENGTH SOMETIMES

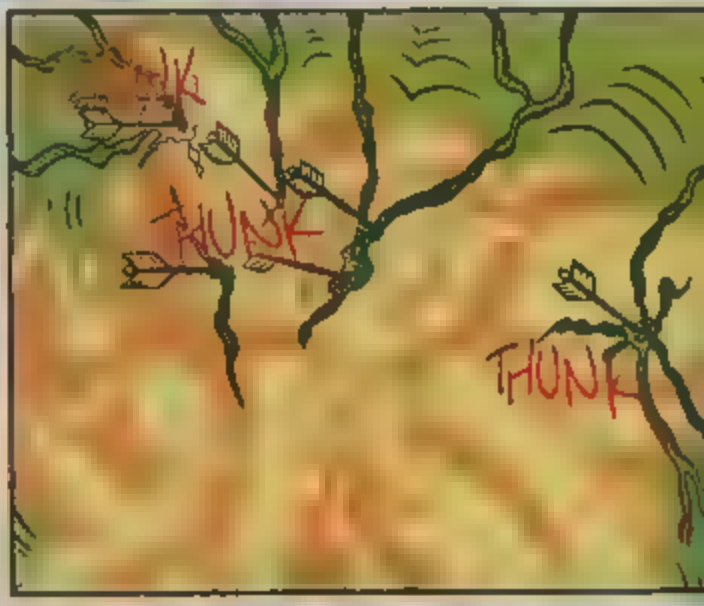
I DUNNO HOW YOU FOUND KNOTHOLE BOT~ BUT NO DOUBT ROBOTNIK S HOT ON YOUR HEELS.
HE'S PROBABLY GOT TAILS TOO WELL THAT DOES IT!

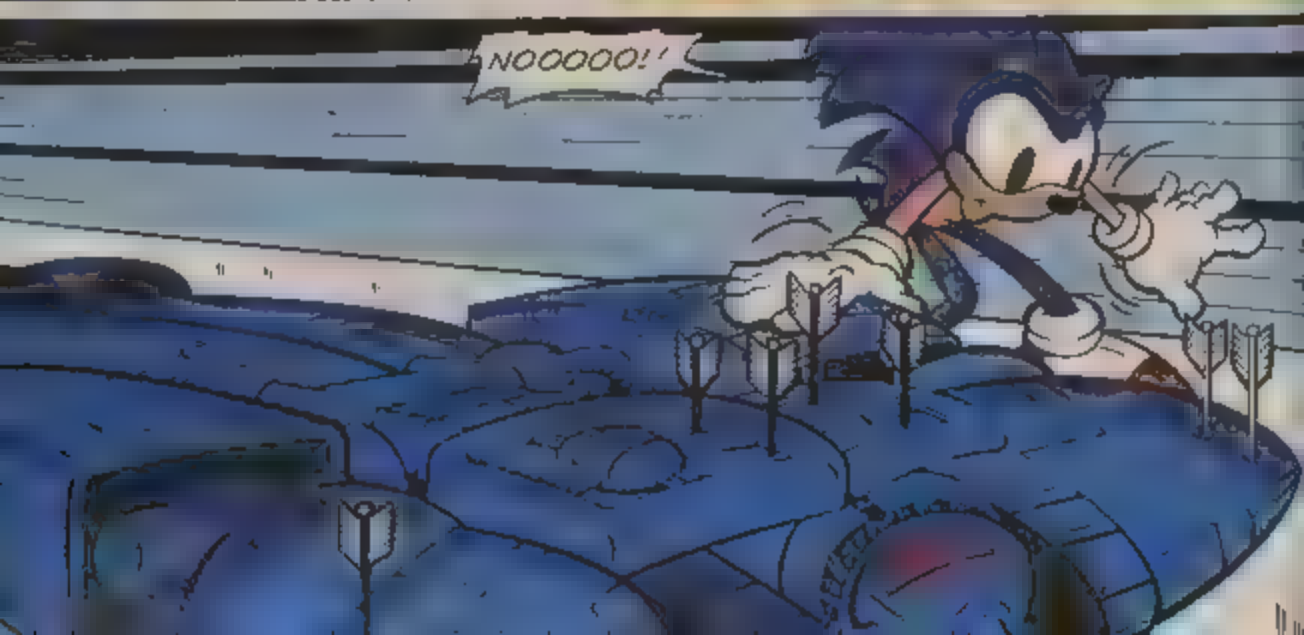

SONNY-BOY IF YOU GET THIS MESSAGE IT MEANS THIS SHADOW-BOT'S FOUND YOU NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY.


THAT VOICE-- IT'S UNCLE CHUCK. HE MUST'VE REPROGRAMMED THE BOT TO COME HERE WITH A MESSAGE FOR ME BUT THAT MEANS--

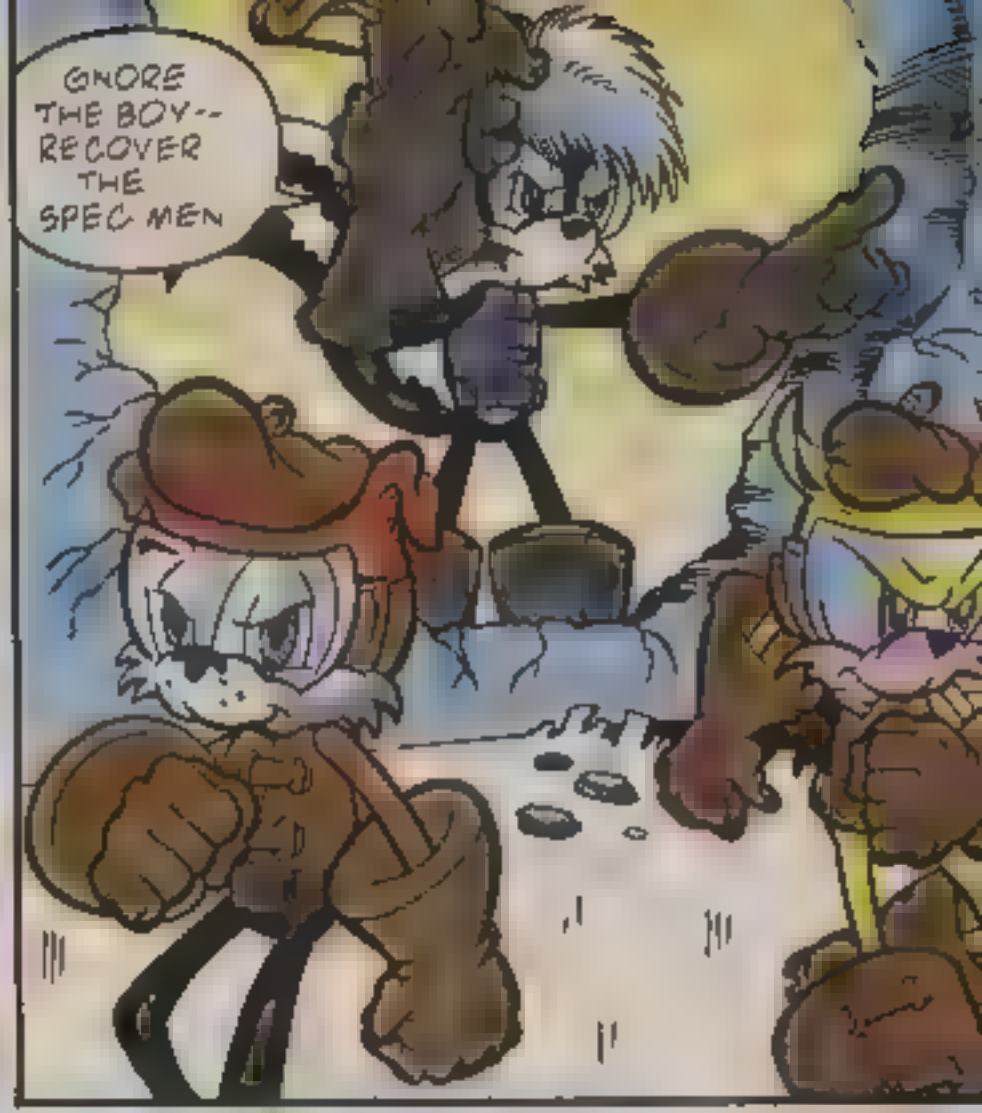

THE SWORD OF ACORNS DOES INDEED RESTORE FREE WILL BUT ROBOTNIK NO LONGER HAS IT IN HIS POSSESSION.

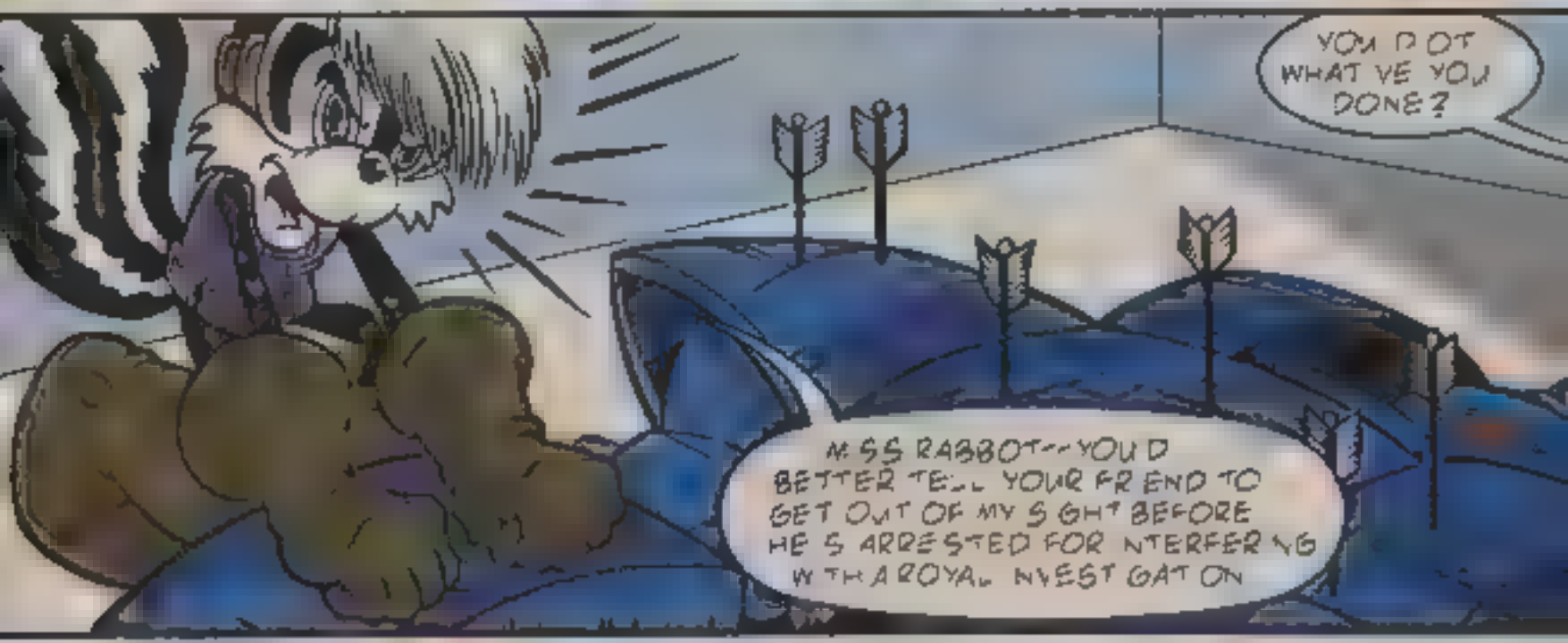

THIS IS TOO WEIRD
ARACHNIS HAS STOLEN IT AND--

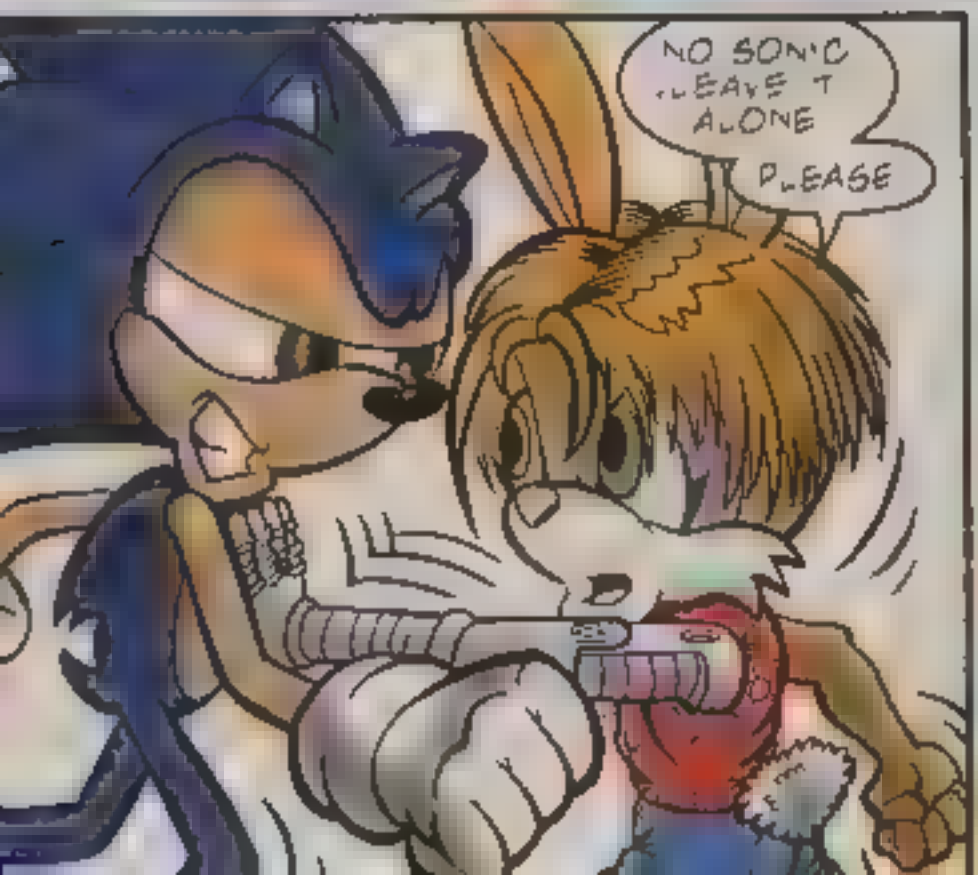

THUNK
THUNK

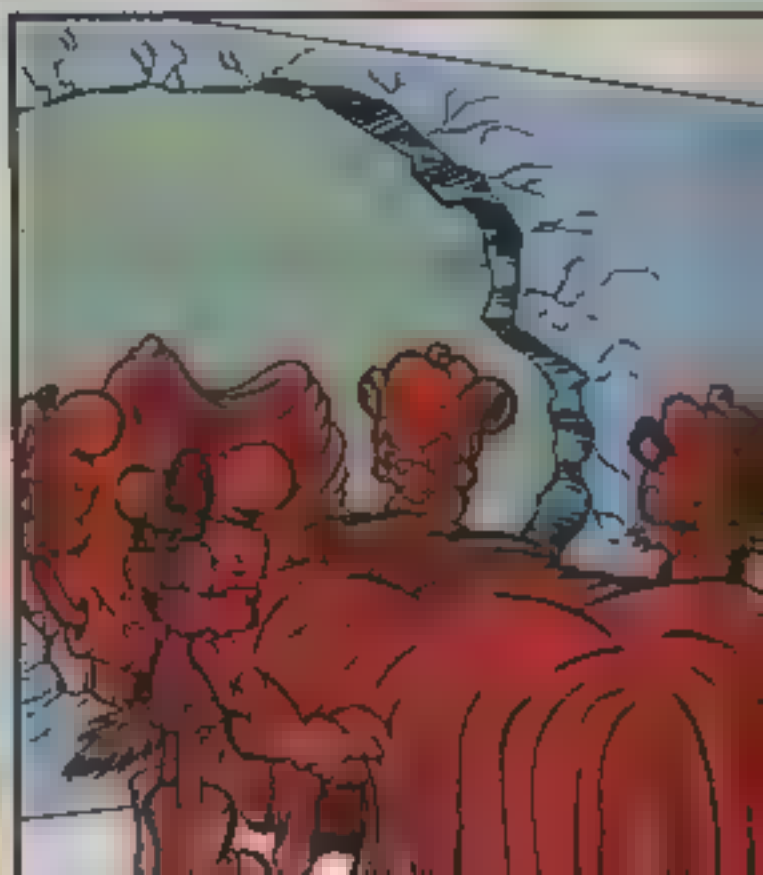

NOOOOO!!

YOU

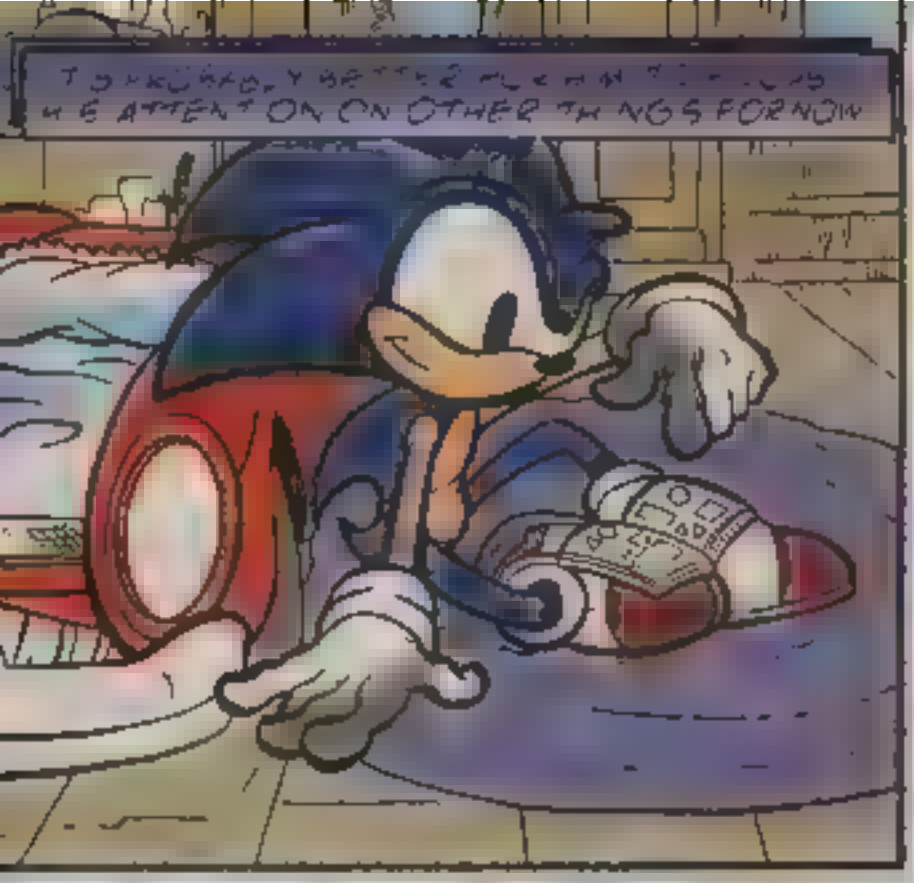

IGNORE THE BOY-- RECOVER THE SPECIMEN


YOU DO NOT WHAT VE YOU DONE?
MISS RABBOT--YOU'D BETTER TELL YOUR FRIEND TO GET OUT OF MY SIGHT BEFORE HE'S ARRESTED FOR INTERFERING WITH A ROYAL INVESTIGATION

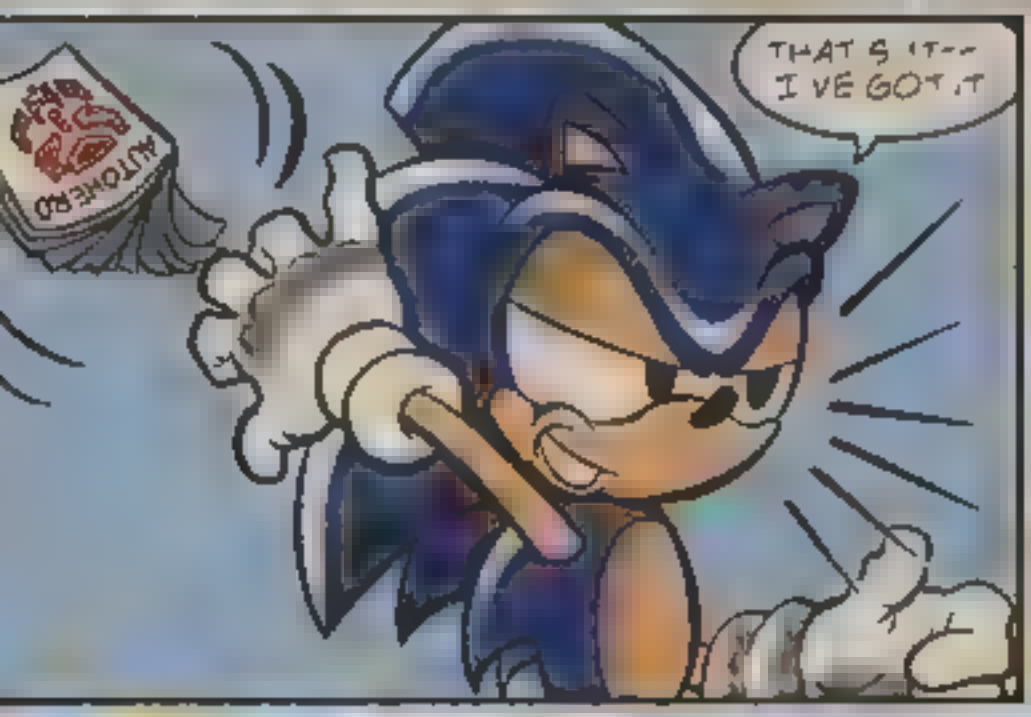

NO SONIC LEAVE IT ALONE
PLEASE

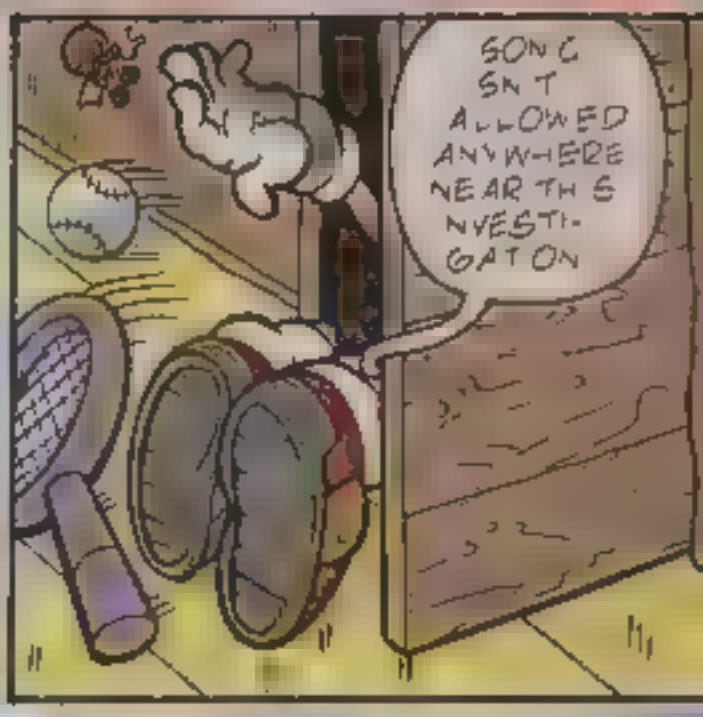


LATER
H MSTER N M SSUS HEDGEHOG IS SONIC HERE?
YES BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL TODAY HE S IN NO MOOD FOR COMPANY
HE DIDN'T EVEN COME OUT OF HIS ROOM FOR CH DOGS
BUT DOESN T TH S PROVE SON C WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE SWORD RESTORING FREE W LL?
YES BUT NOW IT'S UP TO PRINCE EL AS TO DETERMINE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
BUT WHAT S SONIC SUPPOSED T DO?


HE ATTENT ON ON OTHER TH NGS FOR NOW

CYBER-TONE
ROLL OUT!
WOW!


THAT S IT-- I VE GOT IT


SON C SN T ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR TH S NVESTI- GAT ON

SO SON'C WON T GO ANY- WHERE NEAR T

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!
ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

HE WAS BORN TO BE NONE OTHER THAN THE GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, BUT NOW

KNUCKLES

IS EVOLVING INTO SOMETHING MORE--MUCH MORE--

--AND NO ONE YET KNOWS WHAT THAT COULD MEAN FOR EVERYONE WHO DWELLS ON THE PLANET MOBIUS!

MY NEPHEW LIES BEFORE ME UNCONSCIOUS, ATHA.R-

--AND ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!

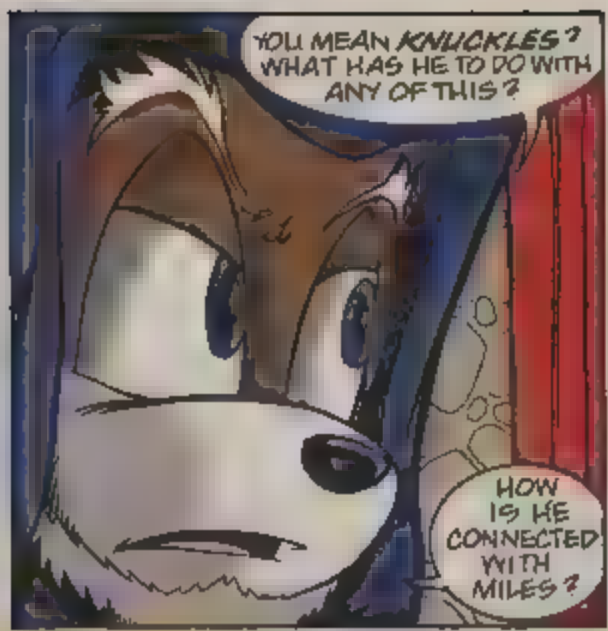
WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

THE BLAME IS MINE, BUT THAT DOESN'T DENY ONE PERTINENT FACT--

YOUNG MILES MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE MY GREAT-GRANDSON!

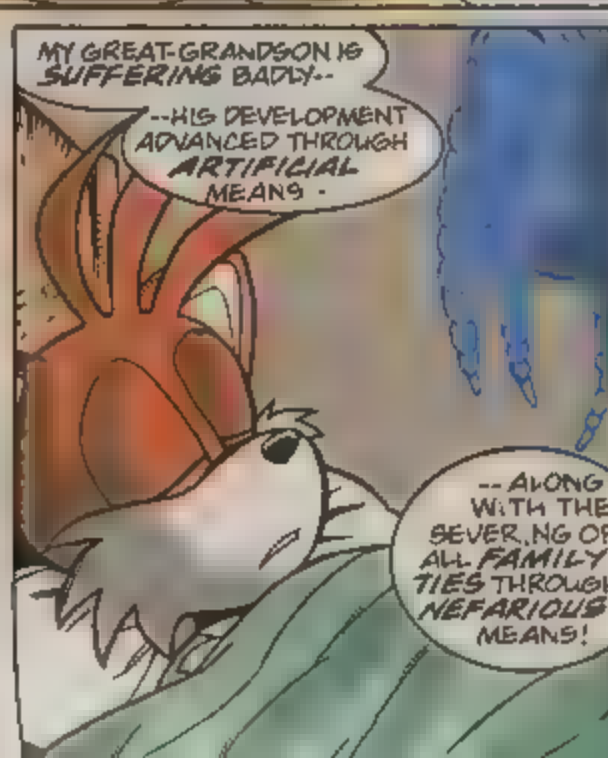
The Chosen One

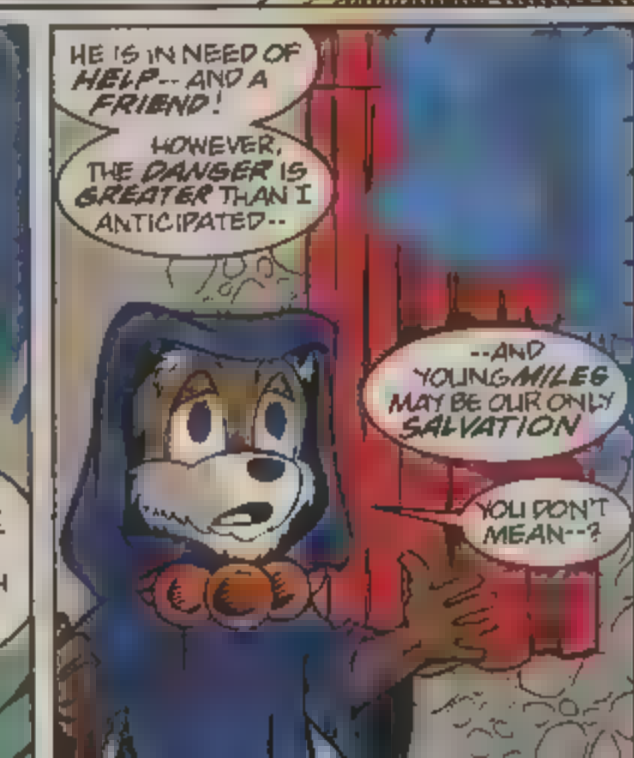
ANOTHER SEGA-INSPIRED STORY BY
KEN PENDERS (WRITER & INKER) RON LIM (PENCILLER) V. WILLIAMS (LETTERER)
FRANK GAGLIARDO (COLORIST) JUSTIN GABRIE (EDITOR)


YOU MEAN KNUCKLES? WHAT HAS HE TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS?
HOW IS HE CONNECTED WITH MILES?

THERE ARE BUT VERY FEW THAT KNUCKLES BEFRIENDS--
--AND MILES HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF THEM

THEIR PATHS HAD CROSSED MANY T MES IN MUTUAL ADVENTURES--
--ONCE WHILE KNUCKLES HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH SEEKING THE SWORD OF ACORNS--
--AND ANOTHER WHEN YOUNG MILES HAD DISCOVERED HE WAS DESTINED TO BECOME TURBO-TAILS WH LE THEY DID BATTLE AGAINST THE CREATURE KNOWN AS MAMMOTH MOGUL!


MY GREAT-GRANDSON IS SUFFERING BADLY--
--HIS DEVELOPMENT ADVANCED THROUGH ARTIFICIAL MEANS -
-- ALONG WITH THE SEVER NG OF ALL FAMILY TIES THROUGH NEFARIOUS MEANS!


HE IS IN NEED OF HELP-- AND A FRIEND!
HOWEVER, THE DANGER IS GREATER THAN I ANTICIPATED--
--AND YOUNG MILES MAY BE OUR ONLY SALVATION
YOU DON'T MEAN--?

OUT OF THE QUESTION!!!

I'VE ALREADY LOST A BROTHER! I WON'T LOSE HIS ONLY SON AS WELL!

BUT THE PROPHECIES--

DON'T YOU DARE LECTURE ME ABOUT THE PROPHECIES!!!

HOW MANY ACTUALLY CAME TRUE WHEN YOU SHEPHERDED THE CLANSMEN?!*

* AS RELATED IN "THE FORGOTTEN TRIBE" PRESENTED IN KNUCKLES #10 THROUGH 12. JUST.

THE PROBLEM LAY NOT IN THE PROPHECIES, BUT IN THE INTER-PRETER!

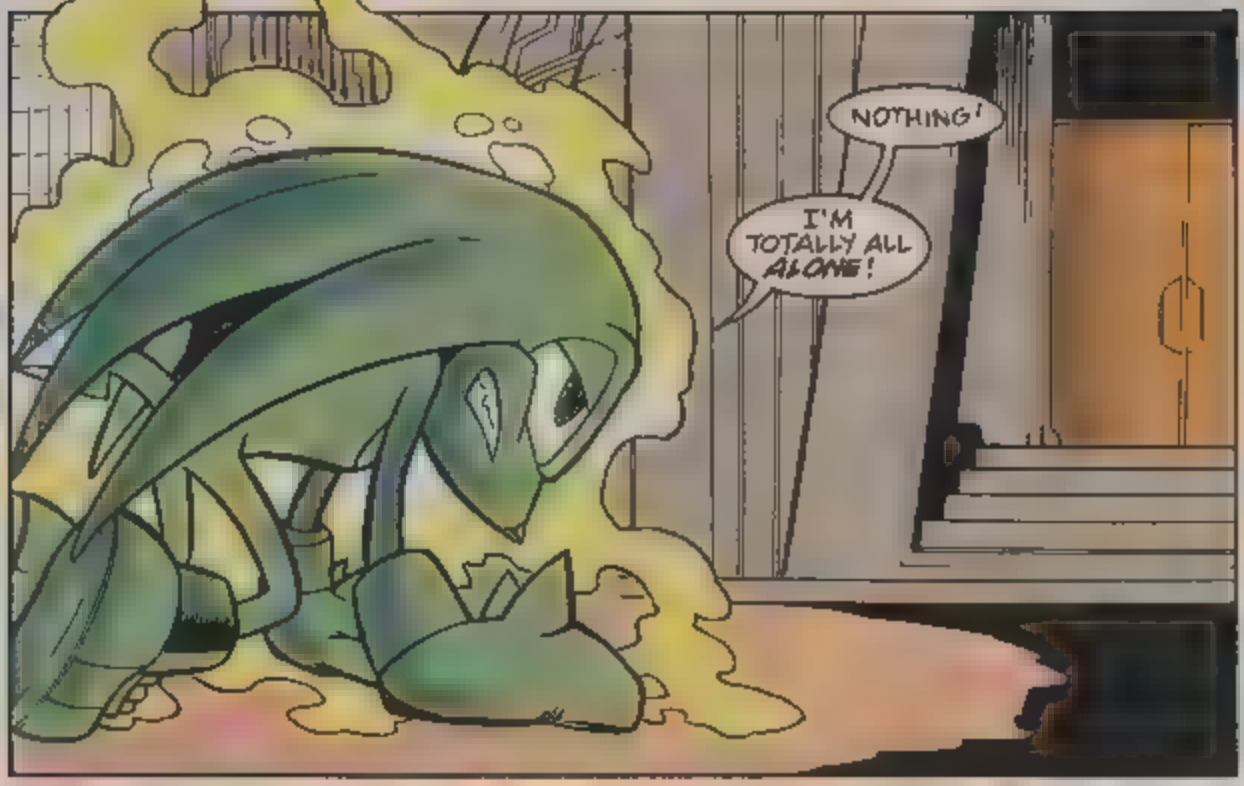
MY SIN WAS THE ARROGANCE OF A BELIEF THAT I ALONE COULD PROTECT MY FAMILY FROM HARM!

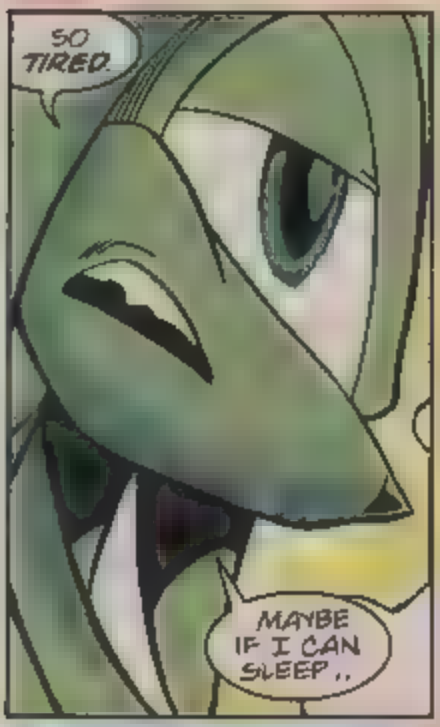
HAD I UNDERSTOOD WHAT PART FREE WILL PLAYS.

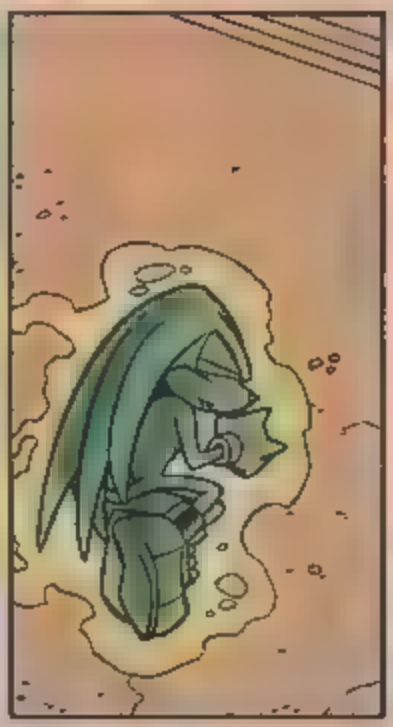
ATHAIR!

DO YOU HEAR?!

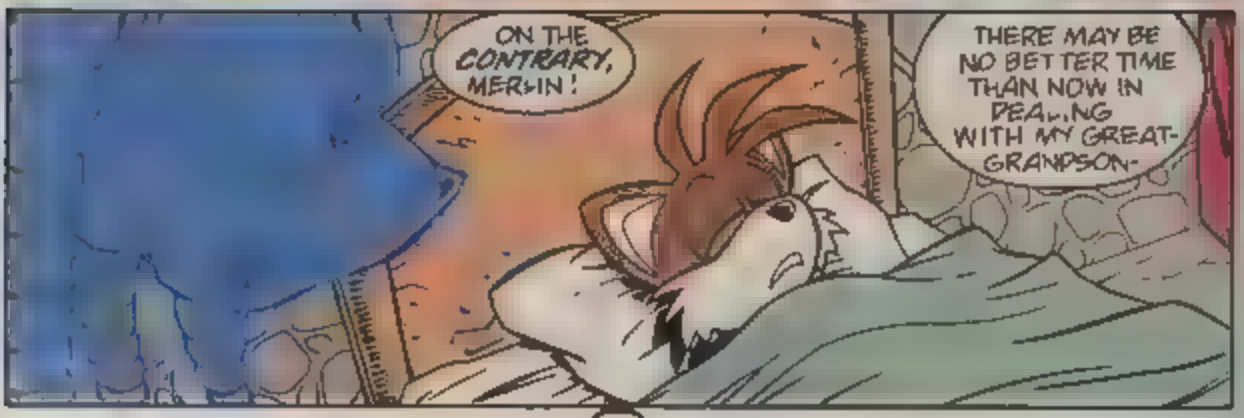
SUCH ANGUISH! WHERE IS THE POOR CREATURE CRYING OUT FROM?!


NOTHING!
I'M TOTALLY ALL ALONE!


SO TIRED.
MAYBE IF I CAN SLEEP..



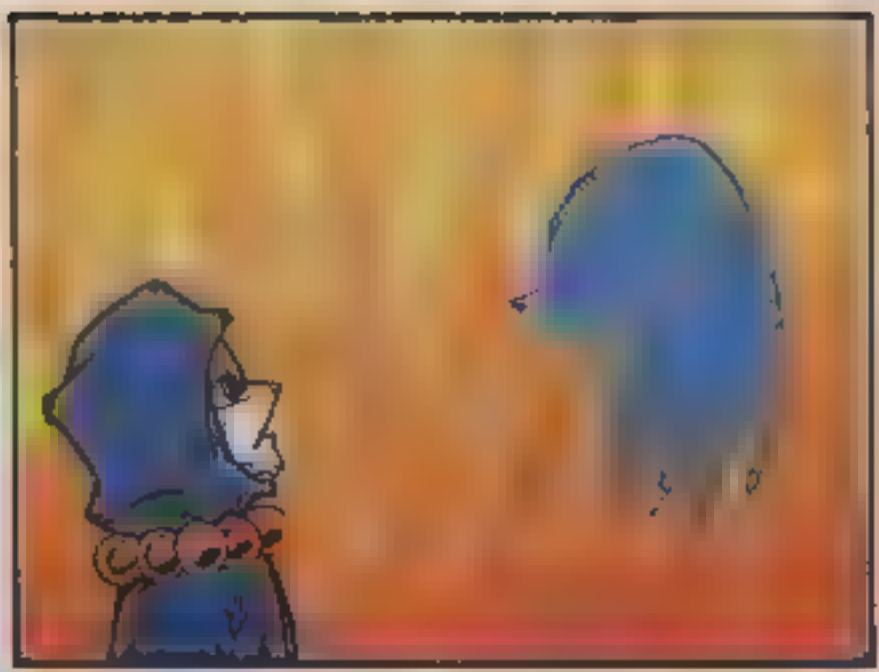
AND NOW- NOTHING
AREN'T YOU CONCERNED, ATHAIR?

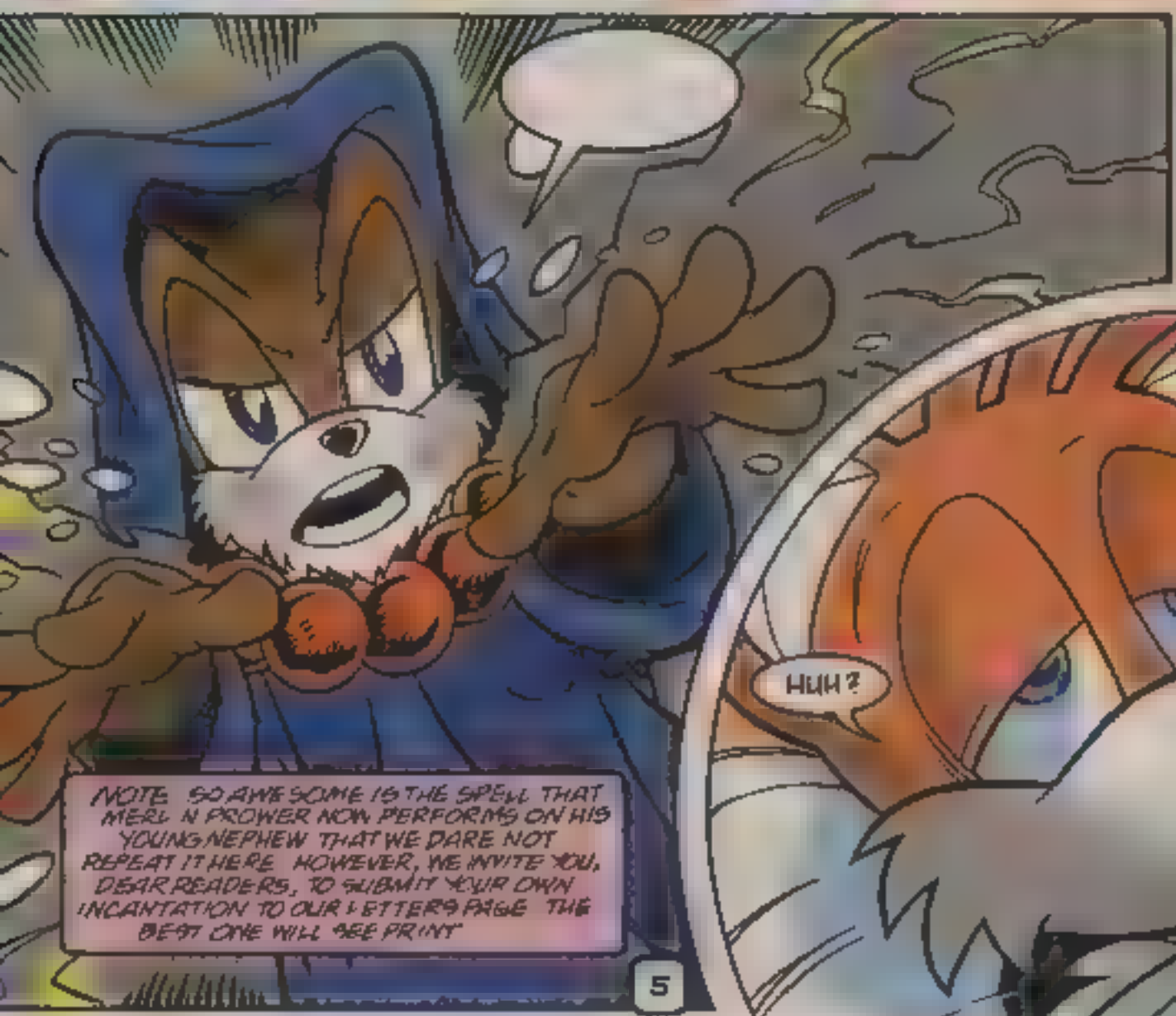

ON THE CONTRARY, MERLIN!
THERE MAY BE NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW IN DEALING WITH MY GREAT-GRANDSON-

--THAN WHEN HE'S AT HIS *WEAKEST*!!

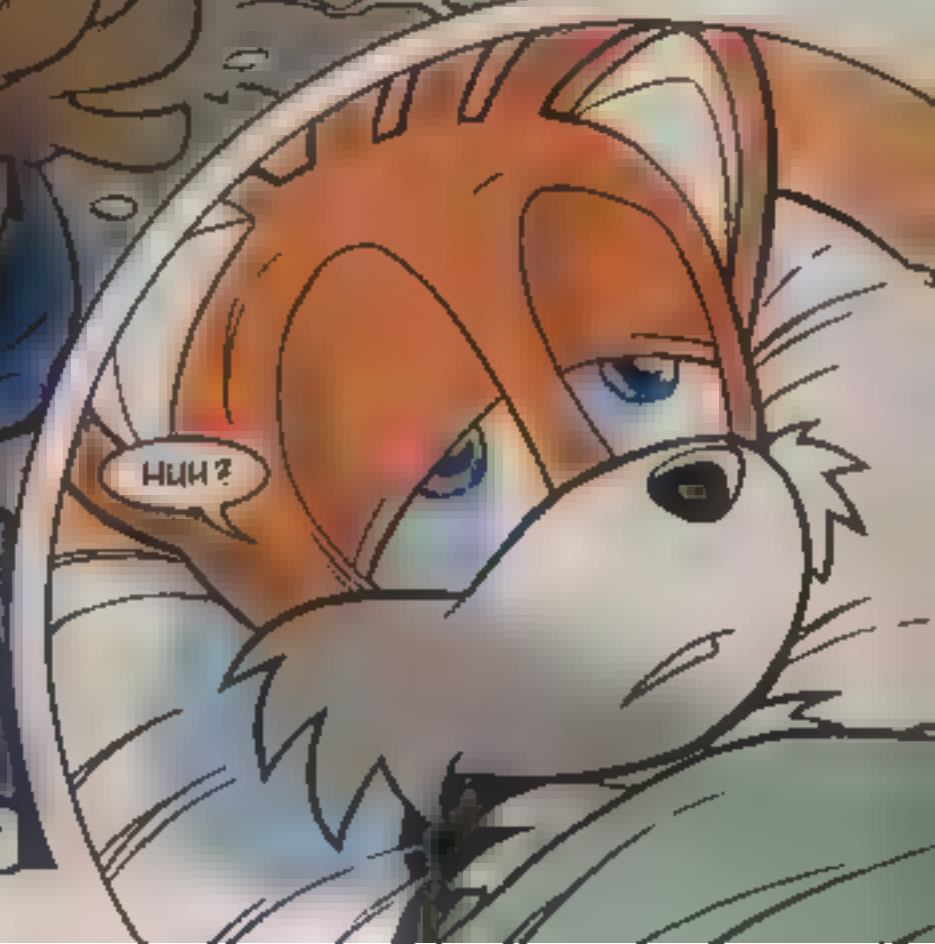
THE TIME IS *NOW*, MERLIN!

CALL FORTH *THE CHOSEN ONE*!





NOTE: SO AWESOME IS THE SPELL THAT MERLIN PROWER NOW PERFORMS ON HIS YOUNG NEPHEW THAT WE DARE NOT REPEAT IT HERE. HOWEVER, WE INVITE YOU, DEAR READERS, TO SUBMIT YOUR OWN INCANTATION TO OUR LETTERS PAGE. THE BEST ONE WILL SEE PRINT.



HUH?
TAILS?
THE FORM MAY BE DIFFERENT, BUT IT'S STILL ME, KNUCKLES!
BUT... HOW?
DOES IT MATTER?
C'MON! WE NEED TO TALK!

ABOUT WHAT?

I KE WHERE MY FAMILY IS?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FAMILY--

--BUT I COULD HELP YOU FIND OUT!

S SOMETHING WRONG?

WE RE NOT ALONE!

SOMEONE ELSE IS NEAR!

IT S ONLY US, M BOY!

WE'RE ONLY HERE TO HELP YOU, KNUCKLES!

WE JUST THOUGHT YOU'D RATHER DEAL WITH ONE THAN ALL OF US!

YOU'RE LYING!

YOU'RE NOT HERE TO HELP ME AT ALL, ARE YOU?
WHAM!
WOOF!
I'M SORRY, KNUCKLES--
--BUT I DON'T THINK YOU CAN TELL FRIEND FROM FOE RIGHT NOW!!
SAYS WHO?
ANY MUG WHO DECKS ME SURE AIN'T A FRIEND--
--SO YOU BETTER GET READY TO RUMBLE!!!
NEXT: DEATHMATCH ECHIDNA STYLE!!! C-YA IN 30!!!

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AF3

SONIC-GRAMS

OFF PANEL by Gallagher, Manak & Amash

THIS JUST IN! *J.F. GABRIE Edition*

When you read this, the landmark 100th issue is only four months away. As I write this, however, we're already hard at work producing that book, and beginning preparations for what comes after, because — believe it or not — there will be an after. (To be honest, I've been dumbstruck by the fans who wrote asking if the 100th issue would be our last. As if! As long as you guys keep coming back for more, we'll keep producing.)

With that in mind, we've been giving a lot of thought of how to make the book more accessible to newer readers as well as satisfy the requests the older readers have made through the years, and we think we've come up with an answer. For years we've been discussing putting together a WHO'S WHO-type project, something with maps and diagrams and basic information about the characters and places featured in the series. And with issue #101, we're going to bite the bullet and present the first of an ongoing series.

That's right, every issue afterwards will feature two pages every month devoted to providing all the inside info readers are clamoring for, whether it's a layout of Knothole Village, or the inside scoop on Antoine and Bunnie or some other favorite character.

My problem, though, is figuring out which two items to start off with, and that's where you, our readers, come in. I'd like you to submit one character and one place you'd like to see featured. There's just one thing: if you pick a favorite character that usually shows up in the Sonic stories, then your place should be something from the Knuckles series, and vice versa. To clarify the term "place" even further, it could be a map of a city, a diagram of a building, or the layout of even a particular room. The character and place receiving the most votes will be the first ones featured.

Since I'm going to be putting these pages together, and since I'm going to be handling the letters pages as well, the best way to contact me — besides sending your cards and letters to Archie Comics, which in turn forwards them to me — is to send e-mail to Sonic@kenpenders.com. While I won't have time to make personal replies, I can guarantee you each and every piece of mail will get read and tabulated.

In the meantime, stay good and we'll see you back here next issue. Take care.

KeN

Send letters to:
SONIC-GRAMS
C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX #419
MAMARONECK, NY
10543-0419
E-MAIL:
jfreddyg@archiecomics.com
WEBSITE:
www.archiecomics.com
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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. *Thanks for understanding!*

COMING ATTRACTIONS

#96

Next issue:

Sonic figures out a way to leave Knothole without being recognized by anyone he knows. His mission is simple: find Arachnus and the Sword of Acorns. Well, why doesn't it seem so simple at all? "My Secret Identity" is written by Karl Bollers, penciled by Nelson Ribeiro and Harvey Mercadocassio, with inks by Ken Penders and Rick Ekhund. And be sure not to miss the conclusion of Knuckles & Tails in "The Chosen One," written by Ken Penders, penciled by Ron Lim, with inks by Pam Eklund. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #97 is on sale in May [illegible]!

It's time again for Sonic-Grams, dear readers, so let's hear what some of you had to say:

Dear Archie Comics,

I have been nuts about Sonic and Knuckles for just over half my life. I spend my time creating my own characters, drawing the original ones, and writing stories based upon both for my own enjoyment, as well as faithfully catching the comic every month. Back when it started, I was mostly a fan of the Saturday morning TV show and kept collecting the comics in the hopes that it would eventually get to the same level as that of the show. I'm happy to say that the comic has most definitely not only met the same high standards that the show put up, but has surpassed those standards many times over. Now, however, it seems we're backtracking. As of late, more than one story has been put into each issue. While this is all well and good, allowing for more perspectives and new information per issue, it seems to me that the stories are becoming a bit rushed. Everything happens too quickly because of lack of space to cram all the extra action and information, and much of the story quality is lost. With the loss of the KNUCKLES comic, and the plan to put both storylines in the same issues, I'm beginning to wonder if maybe it's not such a great idea. My small group of fellow Sonic fans have been wondering if something could be done to solve the dilemma and bring the comic to its former glory! I hope so. I don't expect this letter to be printed in the comic because of the millions of letters you already receive, but once each letter is read, I'll know that my little message wasn't futile.
Meghan Taylor, CANADA

You think we get millions of letters, Meghan!! No, we get BILLIONS of letters!! But, we eventually read yours, so don't fret. First off, we'd like to say we appreciate your loyalty as a true fan of Sonic and Knuckles. Your letter was both thought-provoking and heartfelt. Sometimes transition, à la KNUCKLES into the back-up feature slot, isn't as smooth as we would like it to be. We hope that you and your crew have been enjoying SONIC as of late, though. Drop us another line again. We'd really like to know...

Dear Sonic-Gram,

The name's Mel, and I love Sonic! 1) How does Knuckles glide? I mean, he's an echidna for goodness' sake! And 2) Why is Tails called the Chosen One? Well, time to go. You guys are awesome with the SONIC comic! Mel St. John, West Ossy, NY

Always trying eagerly to please, Mel. Hope you enjoyed our latest issue. To answer your questions: 1) Knuckles father, Locke— a former guardian— conducted mutating experiments on his infant son. Flight was only one of the many abilities Knuckles gained as a result. 2) Tails is referred to as the Chosen One because of a grand destiny he will someday fulfill (maybe even next issue!).

Dear Sonic Team,

I really liked SEGA Dreamcast's SONIC ADVENTURE game. Some questions: 1) Will there be any new villains in the SONIC ADVENTURE 2 game? 2) Will Knuckles ever star in his own cartoon? 3) Will Doctor Robotnik and Chaos be in SONIC ADVENTURE 2?
Richard Flores jr., Houston, TX

We hope you'll enjoy "SONIC ADVENTURE 2" as much as you did the previous game, Richard! 1) Don't want to give too much away, but there will be at least two new villains in SA2. 2) That would be really cool, but we haven't heard anything about plans for such a cartoon. 3) Chaos won't be in "SONIC ADVENTURE 2," but as for Robotnik...well, you'll just have to wait and see!

Dear Sonic-Gram,

I love your Sonic comic! Can you answer my questions? 1) Was SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS KNUCKLES #1, the very first KNUCKLES comic? 2) Who is this new guy pretending to be Robotnik? 3) How does Dulcy the dragon always hear Sonic by his call— he could be miles and miles away from her.
James Oral, Auburn, PA

You love our comic, James, and we love answering your questions: 1) SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS KNUCKLES #1 was indeed the first comic to feature ol' redlocks flying solo. 2) The new guy pretending to be Robotnik isn't pretending at all— he's a Robotnik from an alternate zone/reality. 3) Using his super-speed, Sonic utters a high-pitched whine at a frequency which Dulcy is able to hear from miles distant.

Dear Sonic-Gram,

I am a true blue SONIC fan who's been reading since issue #48. Even though I knew very little about the character back then, I was very disinclined to believe that he'd kill Princess Sally. So I placed all my suspicions on Doctor Quack (Well, I was half-right...). Anyway, I only have one question, and here it is: Why don't you reprint back issue comics? I realize that the original issues may decrease in value, but, if you marked "reprint" on the cover or somewhere inside (so as to distinguish between the originals and the reprints) that would solve the dilemma.
Sarah E. Strobel, Telville, AR

Have you sneaked a peek at our subscriptions page lately, Sarah? Our SONIC & KNUCKLES COLLECTOR SETS hardcovers each contain twelve consecutive issues of our comics.

Dear Sonic-Gram,

I just wanted to know if "Knuckles 20 Years Later" and "Knuckles & Tails- Chosen One" would become part of current stories, and whether the next SEGA game would have its own comic book adaptation. I sure hope issue #100 will be a blast! Heck, it should be. I love you guys and gals at Archie and the stories you create. Anyone who buys this comic, whether kid or adult, would like it so much if you didn't kill off — repeat: do not kill off— the new Robotnik in #100.
Harvey G. Colorado Springs, CO.

Hope you enjoyed part two of "The Chosen One" featuring Knuckles & Tails in this very issue, Tommy! And you'll be glad to know that we'll be adapting SEGA Dreamcast's "SONIC ADVENTURE 2" in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #98.

Whew. Lots [illegible] of letters for there's all we've [illegible] this month! So thanks for writing, everyone, and [illegible]...

KEEP ON JUICIN'!

Cover Illustration by Patrick Spaziante and Harvey Mercadocassio with colors and separations by Josh O. Ray.
Edit page layout & design by Joe Pop